Page 24: Men's Basketball Hosts Liberty League Championships

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THE SPECTATOR

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Elgren and Whitebean Present to National Press Club

by Eric J. Kuhn '09
Editor-at-Large

Professor of Chemistry Tim Elgren, neuroscience major Kateri Whitebean '08, Harvey Mudd College Chemistry Professor Kerry Karukstis, Wooster College Associate Dean Lori Bettison-Varga and American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund Director Chris Hollinsed presided over a panel sponsored by the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) in Washington D.C. early Wednesday morning at the National Press Club.

The event sparked a national conversation on the importance of undergraduate research by introducing CUR's new publication, *Developing and Sustaining a Research-Supportive Curriculum: A Compendium of Successful Practices*. The volume is co-edited by Elgren and Karukstis.

Bettison introduced the panel and the major themes: (1) students learn science best by doing science; (2) skills students gain from undergraduate research activities are not only important for careers in that same discipline, but are also transferable to any number of career pathways; (3) undergraduate research promotes the creativity and innovation inherent in science; and (4) the American competitiveness imperative should focus resources on undergraduate research activities at all types of institutions. Bettison said that Whitebean "in many ways represents the hope for our future."

Karukstis spoke next about how undergraduate research is believed to be "both a powerful mechanism for spurring research in science and for retaining students in science disciplines."

She pointed out that working with a professor on a long-term project leads to a higher retention rate, which is a great way to direct students on a career path.

"The reason undergraduate research is effective at engaging students and inspiring them to learn is because the experience places the student in a central position in the educational process," she said.

Many examples to promote this research, from an array of disciplines, are in the new book. Two emerging themes in the volume, Karukstis described, connected to their daily lives. The other theme is "the recognition that to create a discovery rich environment requires that [faculty] introduce students to discovery and inquiry based laboratory courses early in their career."

The next speaker was Whitebean, the only student on the panel. Whitebean spent her freshman and sophomore summers analyzing honeybee behavior maturation. She began her talk by describing her background growing up in a small rural Upstate New York town. She was first exposed to college level research in high school when she took part in a two-summer exploratory science program coordinated by the Oneida Indian Nation and Hamilton College. This experience helped her when applying to college, for she knew that she wanted a school that emphasized collaboration with teachers and fellow students. She also wanted a school committed to undergraduate research and academic excellence. Hamilton fit her requirements, but to add a cherry on top she "fell in love with the caring atmosphere

see ***Press Club****, page 6*

Garrett Morgan '09 Saves Man in NYC Subway

PHOTO BY MELISSA BALDING '09

Morgan was in New York City for a CAB trip to see *Spamalot*.

by Kara Labs '09
News Writer

On Saturday February, 3 around 7:50 p.m . at the 23 Street A,C, E Line Station in New York City, Garrett Morgan '09 saved a man's life.

"I heard a scream down on the other side of the platform. I threw my bag and started running towards the scream. After a couple seconds, I saw a woman pointing to the tracks, and I saw the man lying across them," commented Morgan.

Morgan, who was in the city on the CAB sponsored trip to see *Spamalot*, had a few hours to spare, so he went with a group of friends down to Soho to walk around. The subway was the only way back if they were going to make the bus back to campus

see ***Morgan****, page 2*

SA VP Run-Off Between Messier '08 and Molfetas '09

by Emily Poe '10
News Editor

As most students were fast asleep early Friday morning, around 12:30 a.m., the Student Assembly Vice Presidential election results were being sent out via all-campus e-mail.

Instead of recieving an e-mail congratulating one candidate though, Hamilton commmunity members awoke to find that there was a run-off election scheduled for the following Monday.

The Student Assembly Constitution states that a candidate must recieve 40 percent of the votes to win the Vice Presidency.

Since no candidate recieved 40 percent of the votes, a run-off election has now been scheduled between the two candidates who received the most votes in the initial election: Ryan Messier '08 and John Molfetas '09.

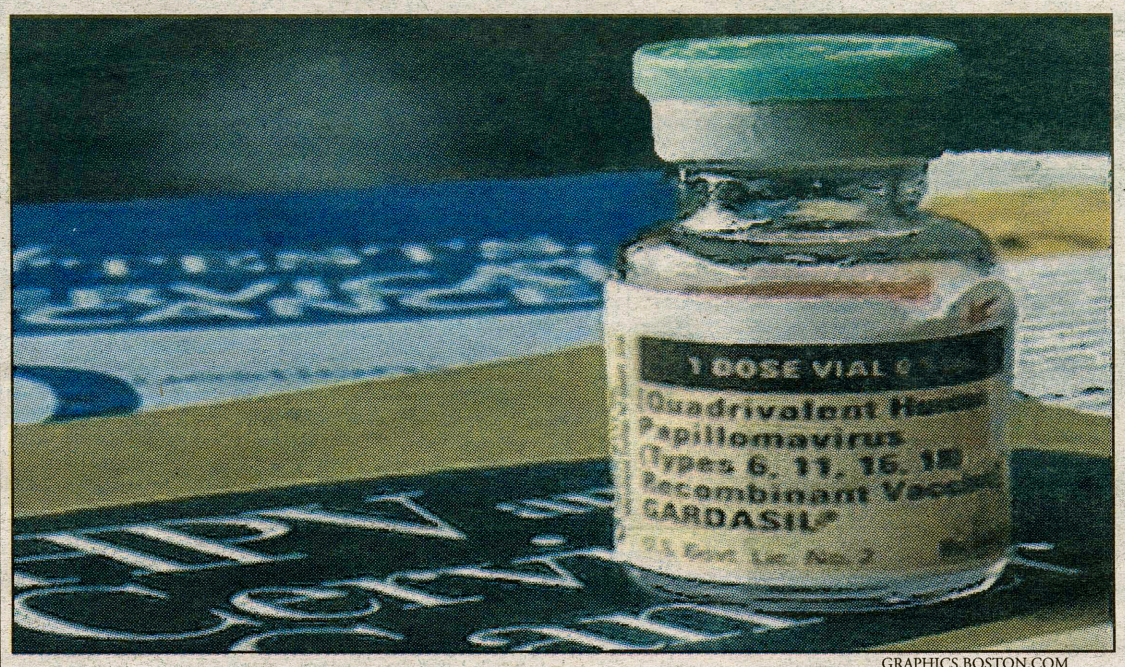
The run-off election will take place next Monday, February 26.

"I want to thank everyone who voted. Participation in this process is as, and sometimes more, important as the people who are selected," said candidate John Molfetas '09, upon hearing of the run-off election.

"The fact that we had two freshman running is very encouraging because it shows that they are very interested in problem solving and are willing to repre

see ***Run-Off****, page 3*

New HPV Vaccine Now Available at Health Center



GRAPHICS.BOSTON.COM

See ***Page 3*** *for more details on the new vaccine.*

Hamilton's Mock Trial Team Heads to Nationals

by Alexander Morgan '09
News Writer

Hamilton's Mock Trial Team qualified for the national championships this weekend in Syracuse. This marks the first time in the team's history that it will attend a national competition.

Two teams competed at the regional competition in four rounds. The qualifying team faced Harvard University, Brown University, SUNY Binghamton and Syracuse University during its four rounds. Hamilton was only one of two losses sustained by Harvard over the course of the competition.

"It feels great to be the first team to qualify for the national championship," said Scott Iseman '07, who is in his third year on the team. "It especially means a lot that the hard work and effort that the team put in resulted in such an accomplishment. For me, winning is great, but watching the team come together and improve is most important."

The qualifying team's members are Joshua Agins '07, Michael Blasie '07, Scott Iseman '07, Ben Johnston '07, Wenxi Li '10, Dillion Prime '07, Alia Rehman '10, and Stacy Sadove '07. Although Hamilton's other team did not qualify, Stuart Lombardi '09 won the Outstanding Attorney Award.

Syracuse judges and assistant district attorneys judged the competition. Only five out of 25 teams that competed won the right to advance to the National Championships. Along with two teams from Harvard University, one team from Cornell University and one team from the University of Rochester, Hamilton is headed to Northwestern University in Chicago for the championships.

> "It feels great to be the first team to qualify for the national championship."

Mock trial teams compete using a simulated case issued by the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA), which contains affidavits, evidence, depositions and laws necessary for interpreting the case. Each team prepares both the plantiff and defense sides of a case not knowing which side it will have to defend until arriving at the competition.

Team members play the roles of attorneys, who examine and cross-examine witnesses, and witnesses who are classified into categories of plaintiff-only, defense-only and those witnesses that can be used by both sides. Each side is allowed three witnesses per round, 25 minutes to question its three witnesses, and 25 minutes to cross-examine the opposing side's witnesses.

"The key to our success was preparation, planning and teamwork," said Michael Blasie '07 in his fourth year with the team. "I think our team's greatest advantage is our flexibility. We can roll with the punches and pull tricks out of our hat, which throws other teams off. While other teams can quote the law, we can understand and argue the law, and I think that is what makes the difference."

Pizza War Results

by Alicia Wright '10
News Writer

The Pizza War was an immense success for last week's FebFest. Each pizza parlour sent 10 large plain cheese pizzas, donating at least 5 for the event. The Nice 'N Easy and Commons's Bón Appetit donated all of their pizzas to the war. With about 150-200 students attending, all the pizzas were devoured within a half hour. Now, after pizzas were sampled and students voted, the results are final. Congratulations to Grande's pizza for a big win! Here are the places in order, starting with Grande's in first:

1. Grande's
2. Nice 'N Easy
3. Pizza Place
4. O' Scugnizzo's
5. Laurey's (tie)
5. Tony's (tie)
7. Pizza Hut
8. Bón Appetit

Sophomore's Heroism Helps Save Life on Campus Activities Board Trip to New York

*from **Morgan**, page 1*

on time. The man was lying in a slumped position (near to the platform) half sitting and half standing.

Morgan managed to grab a hold of his hand while on the platform, but he enlisted the help of another man to help pull him out.

The man was apparently unconscious, so Morgan and the other anonymous man were pulling dead weight. They eventually pulled the man to safety, and Morgan dragged the unconscious man away from the tracks and closer to the wall.

"He was still unconscious at this time so I did a quick survey, checking his pulse, opening his eyelids, and looking for blood on his body. Luckily he wasn't bleeding," reports Morgan.

Lizzie Collins '10, Morgan's friend, approached the MTA employee in the ticket booth who called the paramedics and police.

Morgan offered the man water as he slowly began to regain consciousness. Morgan stayed with him to let him know who he was and what happened.

When the train pulled into the station, Jen Talevi '10 and Jackie Mara '10 took it. They went back to the bus, which was parked in Times Square, to tell the other students of the situation.

Meanwhile the man slowly regained consciousness before the authorities arrived and Morgan, Collins, Helen Quigley '10 and a small crowd that had gathered tried to help the man to his feet.

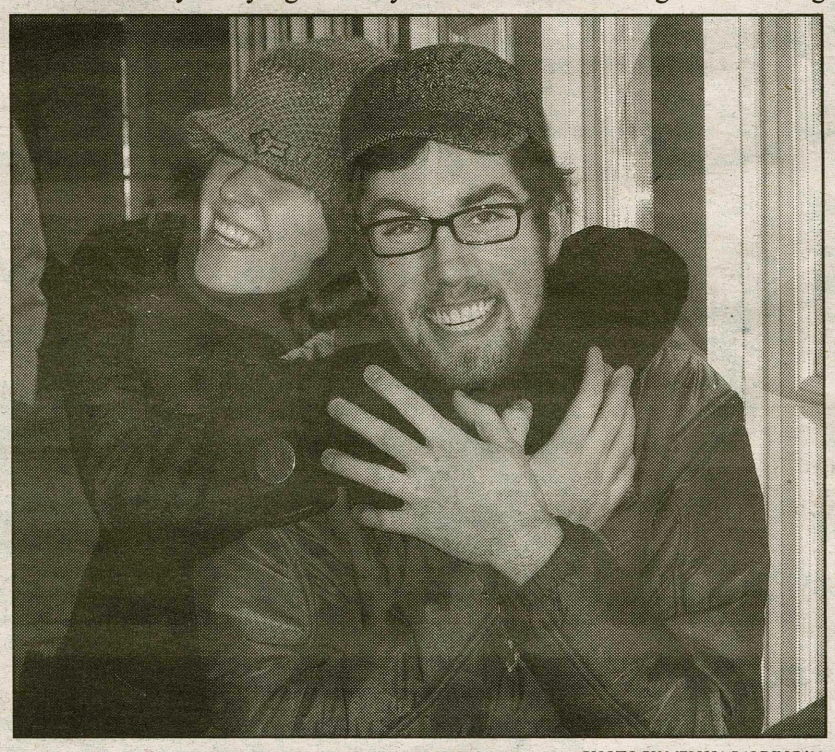


PHOTO BY MELISSA BALDING '09

Morgan, pictured right, is the comedy coordinator for the Campus Entertainment Board (CAB).

By that time, he was acting belligerent and people from the crowd began to suspect that he was either drunk or high. The man was incoherent, and Morgan could not make out whether he was using expletives or saying thank you. The man then stumbled up and out of the platform and walked off.

"We couldn't really have held him down," states Morgan. The paramedics arrived, and Morgan gave them an accurate description of the man. Morgan then caught the next train back to the bus.

After the incident Morgan ran it over many times in his head.

"Iwas a wreck. The bus ride back was pretty rough, because I kept on playing the situation over and over in my head and trying to think of what else I could have done. The man's face and the looks of horror on the other people on the platform also stick with me."

And as to whether the incident changed him, he commented, "I don't feel like a hero. I guess I don't think I did anything special. I happened to be in the right place at the right time. It is reassuring to know that I react well in emergency situations."

Now that he looks back on the situation, it scares him : "I didn't think; I just started running when I heard the woman scream. I am lucky I wasn't running towards a gunman or something."

Morgan called the MTA a couple times over the next week, but never found out the man's name.

"The whole thing was really surreal and petrifying. I was surprised how fast Garrett acted, I didn't even know what was going on until Garrett and the other man had pulled him out," said Collins.

Garrett is the comedy coordinator of the Campus Activities Board and you can usually find him at a CAB event or hanging out in the CAB office. He is also a Resident Advisor, and he has a radio show with Greg Esser '07 entitled "You Have to Have a Heart to be Broken Hearted."

Preliminaries of Hamilton Annual Public Speaking Competition Completed

by Bessie Taliaferro '10
News Wrtier

On Saturday February 10, Hamilton College held the preliminary round of its annual public speaking competition.

All students are eligible to compete for both the Warren Wright and McKinney prizes, which include rewards of $5,000 and $550 respectively.

The contestants who participated in the preliminary round for the McKinney prize were Michael Blasie, Scott Iseman and Tim Gigl for the senior class, Rachel Cannon, Jovan Livada and Ntokozo Xaba for the junior class, Mary Daphne Kostakopoulos, Brandon Lemos and Stuart Lombardi for the sophomore class, and Diana Di Leonardo, Kye Lippold and Katherine Zavin for the freshman class.

The competitors for the Warren E. Right prize are seniors Michael Blasie, Neal Frei, Brie O'Reilly, Dave Waldman and as well as sophomore Carly McWilliams.

Contestant Diana Di Leonardo heard about the competition from the all campus e-mail. She was hesitantly interested, then some of the memebers of the Mock Trial Team encouragesd her.

As a mock trial participant both in high school and here at Hamilton during her first semester, Di Leonardo is no stranger to the world of public speaking.

Her speech was about global warming (not surprising since she intends to major in Environmental Studies), and she encouraged listeners to "enjoy the snow, because it might not be here forever."

Di Leonardo is both excited and nervous about the finals. She believes that she has a shot to win, after she expands and revises her speech.

She also proudly noted that all first-year finalists live in Wertimer and are members of the REAL program.

Economics Major Stuart Lombardi was last year's winner of the McKinney prize.

He spoke about civil unions and how both sides of the argument are too extreme. His proposed solution is for all couples – gay and straight – to have civil unions.

This year he has changed his scope from a national issue to an issue that concerns Hamilton College: the deficit in communication courses.

He believes that although Hamilton strongly emphasizes the importance of writing, public speaking receives little attention. Lombardi plans on attending law school, which clearly entails public speaking, yet he believes that oral communication is essential for all professions. His tips for public speaking include speaking slowly and practicing.

David Waldman, a World Politics major and Economics minor, is very excited about the competition and has quite the captivating speech topic: pirates.

The day of the preliminary competition, he had a conversation at lunch about pirates – about how everyone, at some point in his or her life, has wanted to be one – and then decided that was his speech topic.

He deemed it "socially relevant," which is one of the requirements for the competition; he even has a friend who wrote his law school thesis on pirates.

After being encouraged by a professor, Waldman participated in the competition during his freshman year.

Waldman has had a good deal of experience with public speaking on stage as a self-proclaimed "theatre-geek." He expects that his experience with public speaking will continue to serve him in business or law school.

He thinks he has a "very good" chance of winning, especially with a surprise that is "more than just the speech." If he wins the competition, he plans on using the money to launch his career in piracy. If that doesn't work out, he will buy a motorcycle instead.

The final round of the competition is on Saturday, March 3 from 1-5 p.m. in the Chapel.

HPV Vaccine Gardasil Now Offered at Hamilton

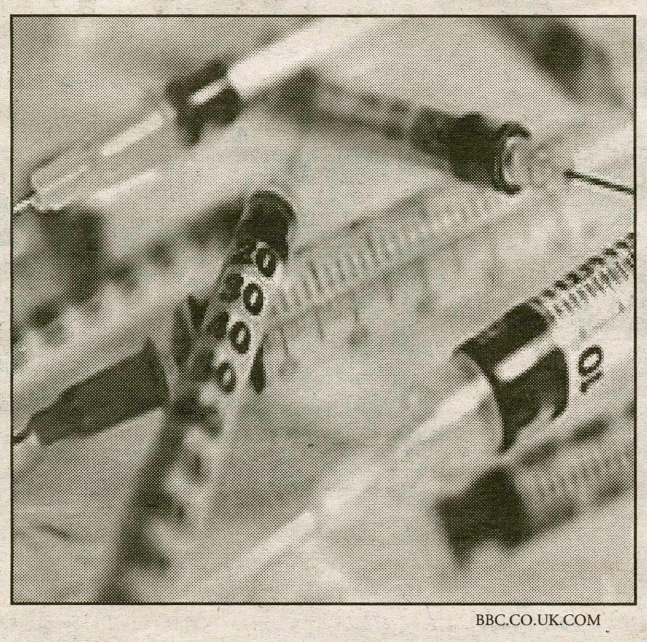
by Danielle Alfano '09
News Writer

Recently, Hamilton decided to offer Gardasil, a vaccine against Human Papillomavirus (HPV).

HPV is a sexually transmitted virus that can cause genital warts and cervical cancer.

Appointments with the Student Health Services Director and GYN Provider Christine Barnes are available to learn more about the vaccine.

According to Barnes, this meeting is important due to "possible contraindications some may have to the vaccine."



BBC.CO.UK.COM

The vaccine is given through a series of 3 injections, each costing $120.

Although there are nearly a dozen different kinds of Human papillomaviruses, this particular vaccine guards against four different HPV types that cause genital infection, two of which (HPV 16 and 18) can directly result in cervical cancer.

Through a series of three shots at $120 per injection, the vaccine defends our cells from infection by creating antibodies which bind to the virus, making the virus incapable of joining with cervical cells.

As a non-infectious vaccine, it has no serious side-effects besides general swelling and discomfort at the injection area. The vaccine lasts for approximately five years.

However, there has not been enough research to conclude whether the vaccine is an effective treatment for existing HPV infections

Although many kinds of HPV are resolved untreated, about 1 percent of women are at risk to the types resulting in cervical cancer.

Despite such a low percentage, the danger is not worth the risk.

Besides the vaccine, pre-emptive measures other than abstinence are ineffective to prevent HPV. While affective for other varieties of STDs, condoms prove insufficient in HPV prevention since the virus can be found in genital areas not protected by the condom.

The vaccine is suggested for girls between the ages of nine and 26.

Through vaccination, girls who are sexually inactive will be protected against all four HPV types that the vaccine covers.

If sexually active however, the patient may have already been exposed to some, or all of the HPV types.

The earlier the patient is vaccinated, the more beneficial the treatment will be.

After testing nearly 11,000 females worldwide, the FDA has approved the vaccine as both safe and effective.

As a commonly occurring disease, approximately 50 percent of sexually active people will contract HPV during their lifetime.

In the US alone, 6.2 million people contract HPV every year, mostly those in their late teens and early twenties.

Although rare, cervical cancer resulting from HPV is a plausible threat. According to the American Cancer Society, about 3,700 out of the 9,710 women diagnosed with cervical cancer died in 2006.

Worldwide, cervical cancer is the second- leading cause of cancer-induced deaths among women.

Potentially, the vaccine will save the lives of 250,000 women each year. According to Barnes, she decided to offer the vaccine through the Hamilton community "because it can save lives!"

Run-Off Election Scheduled for Next Monday

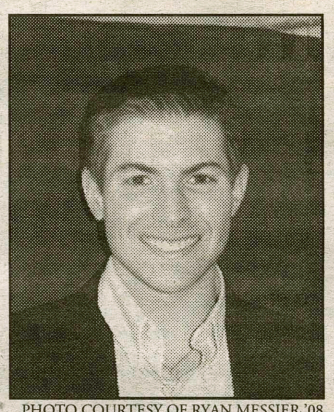


PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN MESSIER '08

Ryan Messier '08.

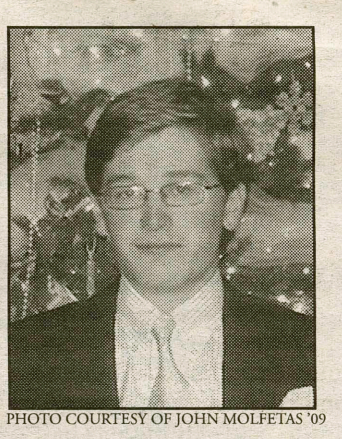


PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN MOLFETAS '09

John Molfetas '09.

*from **Run-Off**, page 1*

sent their fellow students," he added.

Student Assembly President Stuart Lombardi '09 was also available for comment early Friday Morning.

Lombardi said that he has decided to endorse Ryan Messier for Student Assembly Vice President.

"I personally asked Ryan to run three weeks ago. I have full faith in his abilities, and know he will serve Hamilton's student body strongly and effectively," said Lombardi. "John Molfetas is a trusted Parliamentarian. My endorsement of Ryan is not a slight to John, but rather expresses my confidence in Ryan's abilities and my desire to see John continue his commendable work as Parliamentarian," he added.

"I am honored by the support of the student body," said Messier, following the release of the run-off news.

In order to prepare for the run-off election Messier said he "will emphasize [his] dedication to advancing the goals of the students and President Lombardi's administration.
"Together, Stuart and I will get the job done," Messier commented.

Candidates Abdelwahab Abdelghany '10 and Amanda Jordan '10, who both did not receive a sufficient number of votes to qualify for the run-off election, were not available for comment.

An e-mail will be sent out Monday at 12:00 a.m.

The election commitee encourages students to check their e-mails and to make sure they vote come Monday.

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***EDITOR'S NOTE** - WHILE ONE IS BY NO MEANS BETTER THAN THE OTHER, KEEP THIS IN MIND : FAME ONLY LASTS 15 MINUTES. THE SPECTATORS'S OLDER THEN THE NY TIMES. HMMM.....*

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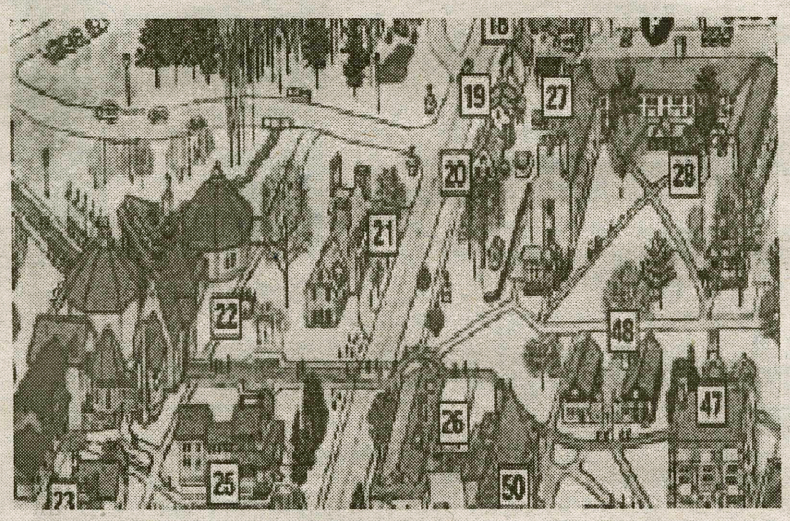
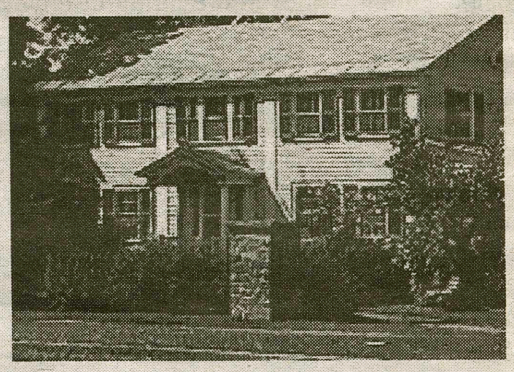


We are located just **uphill** from the crosswalk with the **flashing lights**. We're number 20 on the campus map.



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THE SPECTATOR

Dear Hamilton Community,

The Spectator, as many of you know, is older than the *New York Times*. A lot has changed since then, even the name (*The Spectator* was first published in 1848 as *The Radiator*). As with any student publication, high turnover rates among writers and editors contribute to frequent changes in the publication. While this provides a constant influx of innovative and original ideas, it also necessitates a certain level of understanding among our audience. It is not always easy to implement the changes we would like as quickly as we would like. Often times a mastery of the skills that we, as students, need in order to produce a professional publication take some time to develop. This, however, is college, and like any other activity that students engage in on the Hill, producing *The Spectator* each week is a learning process. On the one hand, this may be a source of some frustration for you, our audience, as you witness this process. But on the other hand, you get to share in the fruits of the process as well.

That being said, here are a few of the things that this generation of *Spectator* staffers has been working to improve:

A publication thrives on its content. Our job is not only to bring you the news, but also to report on the things that actually matter and relate to your lives in an engaging, accurate and, above all else, interesting manner. This semester, *The Spectator* has been working to do just that. Aside from our feature news articles, which have included: "Campus Safety: A Behind the Scenes Look" (Jan. 26), detailed previews of the Kirner-Johnson renovation and the new arts facility, an examination of the Rudd Health Center's hours and in-depth coverage of Student Assembly, every section has focused it's efforts on providing engaging articles that have generated unprecedented interest and discussion among our audience. In fact, we have received more letters to the editor on a weekly basis this semester than we would have hoped to receive in a month previously. The "Jaded Senior Girl Column" has inspired campus-wide discussion through its examination of the dating scene at Hamilton, and has been accompanied in Insights and Ideas by other controversial articles, including "Professor's Political Contributions: Correlation between Activism and Donations?" (Feb. 2) and "Greek Life is Isolating" (Feb. 9).

The Features section has also introduced a number of popularly read columns, including the weekly restaurant review, "Voices from Abroad," and "From Where I Sit," a weekly column that allows international students to share the experiences and perspectives of an education abroad. Arts and Entertainment has continued to offer interesting looks at some of today's hottest bands as well as a look at the theatrical and musical performances on campus. Science and Technology has made great strides in providing fascinating content, including an exclusive interview with Jonathon Overpeck '79, a Hamilton alumnus who has been a leader in the initiative to address global climate change. Sports has, as always, worked successfully to provide seamless coverage of all of Hamilton's varsity sports, and intramural and club sports as well.

Aside from our content, we have been working hard to replace *The Spectator*'s outdated and inoperative website. The new website will not only display each week's issue, complete with color photographs, but will also allow for further interaction with the student body, serving as an extended forum for discussion of prominent campus issues, not to mention providing the Hamilton community beyond the Hill easy access to Hamilton news. We hope to have it up and running by the end of next week.

Above all else, we at *The Spectator* have been trying to draw our audience in. A publication should have a symbiotic relationship with its audience. We report the news, but the Hamilton community provides it. If the many letters to the editor that we have received suggest anything, it is that we are on the right track. We depend on you, our audience, for our subsistence, and we exist to benefit you as well, by providing the news that matters to you and offering a forum for examination and discussion of the issues that affect your lives here at Hamilton. We hope that you will be patient as we work to build on this relationship with you, our audience, and we thank you for your understanding when *The Spectator* has the occasional "wardrobe malfunction," and appears without color. But, above all else, we hope that you continue to read and enjoy *The Spectator* each week as you continue to effect the perspectives, initiatives and events that fill our pages.

by Martin E. Connor Jr.
Editor-in-Chief

THE SPECTATOR

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First published as The Radiator in 1848.

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***THE SPECTATOR'S* LETTER TO THE EDITOR SECTION IS DESIGNED TO BE A FORUM FOR THE ENTIRE HAMILTON COMMUNITY TO DISCUSS AND DEBATE CAMPUS, LOCAL, NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES. PIECES PUBLISHED IN THE SECTION EXPRESS THE OPINION OF THE INDIVIDUAL WRITERS, AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE OPINIONS OF *THE SPECTATOR*, ITS EDITORS, OR THE MEDIA BOARD. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ARE WELCOME FROM ALL STUDENTS, ALUMNI/AE, FACULTY, FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE AND HAMILTON COMMUNITY MEMBERS. NEVERTHELESS, *THE SPECTATOR* HAS THE FOLLOWING POLICIES FOR SUBMISSION:**

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. Submissions can be sent by email to spec@hamilton.edu or to the individual I&I editor (bnoble or phodgens). The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 650 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* will not edit letters for misspelling, poor grammar or diction.
5. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
6. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

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STEP/Dreyfus Research Funding Gone

from **Elgren,** *page 1*

that the professors and college presented, researching out everyone and all interests on campus." The summer before her freshman year, she took part in the STEP/Dreyfus program with nine other students. Whitebean says that this experience was helpful in her transition into college life and her decision to pursue a major in science. Her continued participation in undergraduate research furthered her interest in the field. After graduation, she wants to obtain a Masters in Education and become a high school science teacher. She said, "Undergraduate research was an integral part of my college experience. It was the springboard that got me hooked. I believe that providing exceptional research opportunities is the essence of a great college."

Whitebean's research gave her abilities that go beyond science, allowing her to make connections to the larger society. She gained invaluable skills by "knowing how to ask questions, knowing where to find these answers, the confidence and experience, the independence, and the ability to work through the process…has made me a more successful student in all aspects."

"You're a tough act to follow," Hollinsed said to Whitebean as he took to the podium. He believes that Whitebeans's generation are the people who are going to be at the forefront of cutting edge research. He sees that undergraduate research allows students to "envision themselves in that role." Hollinsed said undergraduate research is a great way for students to envision a career path and even have an impact on society. Even if the student enters the undergraduate experience and finds out that science is not for them, they go onto another profession "with their eyes wide open, which is so much better then if they had not had that experience."

Professor Elgren wrapped up by speaking on how far undergraduate research has come - when CUR started there were 10 institutions participating; now there are 500. He stressed that undergraduate research is not only limited to places like Hamilton or Harvey Mudd College, but to institutions all over America. He said that "research experiences bring science to life. It brings students into the act of doing science. It helps with the transformation from science student to scientist." Using Whitebean as a prime example, Elgren said that "students learn science by doing science, but it's not limited to science. Students learn by getting engaged in open ended research." He believes that telling students about the principles of science in an introductory class leaves no place for students to have an impact. This is why research provides "opportunities for students to get involved, exert their own creativity and ownership and really get engaged."

The panel then fielded questions from the press and fellow educators in the room.

In light of the panel's findings, the recent exhaustion of the STEP/Dreyfus funds, which fund pre-matriculation science research, comes as a particular dissapointment for many at Hamilton.

PHOTO BY ERIC KUHN '09

Whitebean '08, a neuroscience major, discussed her experiences with science research at Hamilton.

This program is a major selling point for the Office of Admissions to high school students. Therefore, Admissions acted accordingly and swiftly to inform their tour guides to stop talking about STEP/Dreyfus, for it was "on hold for the time being."

In an e-mail, Dean of Admissions Monica Inzer said, "There are many people advocating for the continuation of this program. Our commitment to research has not lapsed in any way, just the grant funding for this one program."

The program was funded by "seed grants," according to Elgren, who says that they were "used to show that we could do this. The institution now has to step up with its own funds."

Inzer said, "While it is uncertain whether or not the college can identify other resources for the upcoming summer, we are seeking funding for the program for the future," she added.

After the event, Whitebean told *The Spectator*, "I am definitely here today because of STEP/Dreyfus." Elgren said that it would cost $17,000 to fund the program for 10 students. Dean of Faculty Joseph Urgo said in an e-mail, "We are looking into ways to continue the STEP program in the future. We're at the end of the grant cycle, and would like to take time to assess the program's effectiveness before applying for new grants or deciding to take on the project as a College program. The sequence of events is fairly typical of such externally funded programs."

Chemistry Professor George C. Shields, who wrote the grants, secured the money and spearheaded the program, was at a conference and could not provide a full statement. However, he did say, "My final report on the five year project is due this April to NSF." He is looking for ways to find interim funds to continue the program this summer and referred to the Coordinator of Summer Science Research Leslie North's e-mail. "The NSF and Dreyfus money…has all been spent. No one wants there to be a 'gap' in the program, and there is a search on to find some money to keep the program alive this summer," North wrote.

Thumbs up

- Giving up Jesus for Lent.

- Hamilton students join HAVOC's excursion to teen pregnancy center in Utica. Unfortunately, most are misguided by hopes of becoming pregnant themselves…pregnant with Chicken Tiki Marsala from Minar, that is.

- To Africa and Back: Perhaps one day we can celebrate "white culture," but I think first we need to produce something a little cooler than Paris Hilton (but probably still a little less cool than hip-hop).

- With DiCaprio, Damon and Wahlberg in one movie, "The Departed" (showing in KJ) should probably be renamed "Hunky McMan-gasm."

Thumbs down

- Hamilton catches the plague. We imagine the infections are linked to sexual intercourse. This conjecture may explain the low fatalities among Capoeira members.

- If I were impregnated by K-Fed, I would also probably shave my head… and then I would shave my face off… entirely.

- I hope they put Anna Nicole Smith to rest soon so her rotting corpsicle can stop haunting my dreams (and my fridge).

by Stephen Allinger '09 & Tyler Zink '07

Who cares

- Tom Brady is a bastard. Oh, wait, that's his son.

- Poetry Readings: Hearing poetry live makes it neither more exciting nor intelligible. But nice try.

- "The Lost Boys" might have it bad, but we have both lived in the Tour Guide room at some point. You don't see us running marathons about it.

- If we can get Rhymefest, why does Kanye West think he is too cool to visit? Doesn't he know about the new Arts Center?

LoudCampus.com: A Real Online Community

by Matthew J. Bradley '07
INSIGHTS & IDEAS WRITER

A Senior Column: fleeting perspective

You may have seen the yellow LoudCampus.com fliers scattered throughout the Hamilton campus. My first experience with the Loud Campus campaign occurred during my usual trek through Beinecke. I walked right past the booth, sharing only a quick, meaningless glance with the promoter behind the desk. My assumption, which I'm sure is not unique, was that Loud Campus is another fruitless website looking to share a piece of the collegiate pie. Of course, when Facebook first appeared on the scene, I was similarly cynical about its utility. But now, three years later, I have no shame admitting my Facebook addiction. I am no doubt addicted to the community, information and networking opportunities that it provides.

With this in mind, I decided to look into Loud Campus a bit more before I wrote it off. Upon my exploration, I discovered the site's unique, circumstantial relationship to Hamilton. Loud Campus is the brainchild of Cornell alumni, Yanni Hufnagel '06 and Doug Sokolik '05. Interestingly, the co-founders chose Hamilton as their launch campus because of its small, well-connected community of students. As a member of the campus through which these two alumni hoped to launch and promote their site, I felt a certain sense of responsibility to take part in the experiment. There's nothing that I respect more than young entrepreneurs trying to grab hold of the American Dream. So after the Hamilton launch of Loud Campus on Monday, February 19, I decided to sign up and give it a shot.

I logged-in with no preconceptions of the Loud Campus format or purpose, and I was pleasantly surprised by the site's ease and appeal. Essentially, Loud Campus promotes community dialogue by providing a well-organized forum through which students can candidly rate, poll, discuss and argue about the topics of their choice, ranging in gravity from local restaurants to political candidates.

The genius of Loud Campus lies in its focus and organization. Like Youtube, Loud Campus allows students to tailor their use based on interests. The site displays the most active (popular) posts, but also allows users to search and discuss any issue he or she may find appealing, thus empowering the user to personalize his or her interaction with the community.

After creating an initial profile, the opportunities are endless. While Facebook thrives on the perusing of superficial information profiles (e.g. favorite bands, about me and personal information), Loud Campus connects students by emphasizing dialogue and opinions. Rather than simply restricting communication to personal wall-posts and private messages, Loud Campus provides a forum through which students can share their long-silenced opinions with the Hamilton community.

Loud Campus is unique because it allows students to participate in a community forum. While Facebook creates an online community through superficial profile relationships, Loud Campus brings this sense of community to the next level, creating relationships based on opinions, dialogue and criticism. The Loud Campus community bypasses the superficiality of Facebook by allowing students to voice real opinions on the topics that matter most to its users.

As the community grows, the range of topics will no doubt proliferate. After only five days, there are already professor, restaurant, and party reviews, as well as discussion threads regarding campus issues such as whether or not the fitness center's card swipe system is useful and a censure of the Hamilton movie channel. The possibilities are endless.

The future of Loud Campus lies in the hands of those students who want to share their ideas and opinions with the world. Nowadays, if you don't write for *The Spectator*, *The Continental*, or any other campus publication, your opinions will most likely be ignored. Loud Campus, however, empowers students to promote change through dialogue.

Ideally, if every student were to create an account, it would allow the entire community to share information. As the site grows, it will allow students to rate every professor, class, event, party and destination. If students were able to have this information at their disposal, it would erase the rumors by providing real opinions, whether criticizing or lauding, about every issue topical to Hamilton students. Loud Campus leaves no opinion unheard.

By providing students with names and profiles, the site erases the problems caused by anonymous posting, which inevitably leads to defaming, racist or unfounded opinions. Additionally, one can view all the posts made by users by viewing their profiles. The site promotes useful rhetoric by promoting accountability and community. Because the topics range from the superficial to the profound, students are able to chose relevant topics (or create new ones) as they pertain to their experiences.

Loud Campus is brilliant, because it promotes dialogue based on topical issues. As new professors, classes, problems or destinations arise, so too will the discussion of their success or failure. Loud Campus is the first site created for college students, by college students, which allows for unadulterated opinions, reviews and rhetoric. The future is bright for the up-and-coming collegiate site. Soon enough, the site may allow campus groups and organizations to create their own threads, allowing members to privately discuss their issues online. This would work much like the current listserv format, but without cluttering your inbox. I urge you all to sign-up, log-in and start voicing those lingering opinions, which had no means of being heard prior to Loud Campus. Let's create a community based on ideas and rhetoric rather than superficiality. Loud Campus is the future of collegiate information-sharing. Loud Campus is going to spread like a wildfire, and those not involved will miss out on a community that promotes information through dialogue. Cheers.

Check out next week's ***Spectator*** for a joint article by a senior girl who's jaded and a senior guy who's got perspective.

Looking for advice on relationships?

Want to share your opinions about life on the Hill?

Mad you were called a tart?

Send an email to estarrett or mbradley.

Was Hamilton Black?

by Robin Gane-McGalla '07
INSIGHTS & IDEAS WRITER

In honor of Black History Month, I've decided to examine the evidence that our college's namesake was partially of African descent. I have searched the internet and received help and perspective from Professor Ambrose, Professor Rubino and John Guilbert, Executive Director, Nevis Historical & Conservation Society. I'll examine the ramifications of discrediting the assumption that Hamilton was European. Despite a biblical passage to the contrary, Jesus is often illustrated as Northern European. Cleopatra (from Egypt) was portrayed by the English born Elizabeth Taylor. Non-European figures have been "whitened" before. Below, I'll give a brief biography of Alexander Hamilton, focusing on the evidence that he may have had "black blood."

WWW.HAMILTON.EDU

Was this founding father black?

Hamilton was born as the illegitimate son of Rachel Fawcett Lavien on a Carribean island called Nevis, which was about the size of the town of Kirkland. His mother divorced because of infidelity long before Hamilton was born, casting doubt on the true identity of his father. Some claim that it was James Hamilton, the man who lived with Rachel. Others claim it was Nicolas Cruger, a Carribean merchant with connections in New York, who employed an 11 year old Alexander Hamilton after his alleged father left him and his mother died. Some claim that Hamilton's mother had affairs with her slaves. Additionally, many claim that Hamilton's mother was herself part black, and newspapers record Hamilton's political enemies calling him a "mustee," implying that his mother was a quarter black. At 14, Hamilton was running Cruger's business. After attending a prep school in New Jersey and applying to an advanced program at Princeton, he was turned down only after an in-person interview. At 17 he began attending what would become Colombia University, only to drop out two years later to fight in the Revolutionary War. At 20, Hamilton was appointed lieutenant colonel and became George Washington's aide-de-camp. After practicing law for a short period after the war, Hamilton became extremely instrumental in the ratification of the Constitution by writing most of the Federalist Papers and forming the Federalist Party. Hamilton was perhaps the staunchest abolitionist of his time. He argued that blacks were mentally equal to whites and that slaves could be competent soldiers. He supported the black-led government in Haiti that overthrew the French.

At 32, Hamilton was named the first Secretary of the treasury by Washington. After resigning due to a scandal, Hamilton became more involved in political rivalries that would eventually result in his death. John Adams called Hamilton a "creole bastard" and Abigail Adams said that, "[Hamilton] was a vain, ambitious man aspiring to govern when it was his duty to submit." Hamilton received much criticism despite being so important to the foundation of this country. Aaron Burr ended Hamilton's life in 1804, but Burr was not punished.

That's about all the evidence that I could find. I imagine some people are convinced that Hamilton was black. Others may think that I've offered little or no evidence at all. Remember, there's no proof that Hamilton was white. Nobody knows Hamilton's race for sure: his political critics probably didn't and it's possible that Hamilton himself was never sure. Only a genetic test can determine the truth with certainty. Some people might argue that Hamilton's race doesn't matter. Clearly, race meant something during Hamilton's time. But even today, people often try to accumulate long lists of great individuals of their own race so that they can feel proud of their race, or sometimes so that they can feel superior to other races. So Hamilton's race remains an uncertainty that is important for people.

What is certain is that Hamilton's achievements were important, and they still affect us today. That he was born a soon to be orphaned bastard on a tiny island makes his life more incredible. So does the fact that he was brutally criticized, perhaps simply for being an outsider (all other important founding fathers were born in America) or because of his race. He was an important military, political and economic figure, and he was one of the few who advocated treating unfavorably viewed groups as equals. His struggle and achievements are similar and important to millions of African-Americans, regardless of whether he was of African descent. If anybody is looking for a person of African descent who was accepted among whites before abolition, I'd recommend investigating Benjamin Scott Moncrieffe, who served as the treasurer of a colonial church union.

All of this raises the questions, why do we need African-American heroes to be African, and why do we need a Black History Month at all? Certainly blacks have faced terrible discrimination, but so have plenty of other groups. There wouldn't be enough months in the calendar to accommodate every group. How about we use the month of February to confront and eliminate our own prejudices so that we can honestly say that the race of Alexander Hamilton, or any other individual, doesn't mean anything.

Want to put embarrassing pictures of your friends on the front page?

Got blocked out of Intro to Photo?

Want to prove to your parents that 40 Gs is worth it?

Need to pad your resume?

Be a photographer for the *Spec*!

Email mbalding

Express your views in

I&I

e-mail
bnoble
and
phodgens

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I'm writing in response to the letter to the editor by Ms. Starrett in last week's edition of *The Spectator*. In her letter Ms. Starrett cites my letter from the previous week saying that it was "insulting and inaccurate." I, however, never meant to hurt her, but as she clearly misunderstood my point, I shall clarify it here. In this letter, she suggests that I felt she had a conflict of interest, as she was the sports editor (nowhere in my letter did I ever label her as a news editor, as she claimed) and SA president. In actuality, I do not feel that she had a conflict of interest; I personally feel that if someone is willing to do the work for any two positions on campus, including student government and student media, then they have the right to do them both. I used my example to show that the administration had not acted in the past when there was crossover between publications and student government.

At the end of her letter, Ms. Starrett asks, "why the same 10 people seem to run everything on this campus." I agree with her that if more people were involved, then this conflict of interest debacle would never have occurred. I, however, have an explanation as to why people are so reluctant to get involved. And the answer is in her letter. Ms. Starrett highlights 2 spelling errors in the January 19th edition of *The Spectator* and uses them as evidence of why the editor is not to her liking. This is the reason people choose not to get involved--they don't want to be criticized for every little mistake they make. I know some people don't care and readily get involved, but many find it easier to criticize than to get involved. I don't think it is entirely the editor's fault that a few spelling errors got through in *The Spectator*. For example, does anyone honestly think that the editor of the *New York Times* reads every single article every single day? No, he doesn't, that is the job of copy editors to proofread for grammar and spelling. *The Spectator* had copy editors until the end of last year when they graduated. Now that there are none, it is not surprising that some mistakes slip through. And besides, I read *The Spectator* for its content, not for its grammar. Overall, my point is that people will largely continue to be apathetic as long as they know they will be criticized for getting involved and not rewarded for it.

Gregory Ray'08

Political Contributions: Responses to Paquette

Dear Editor,

Last week, Professor Paquette accused Professor Cannavo of using the Spectator to "browbeat and intimidate" Mr. Noble for his article on the political contributions of professors. Professor Paquette is unfair in his criticism of Professor Cannavo, twisting facts to suit his argument.

Professor Paquette's tone throughout his piece is one of victimization, distorting facts in order to fit them into his general theme of conservatives being persecuted. For example, he claims that the College Republicans can only "scrape" together enough money for one conservative speaker per semester, making them seem like poor orphans begging for scraps. All student organizations have trouble scraping together money for prominent speakers, not just the Republicans. Last semester, I believe the College Democrats had no speakers, showing that the problem of obtaining prominent speakers is more bipartisan then Professor Paquette would like us to believe.

Professor Paquette continues on with a self-pitying tone, lamenting the lack of conservatives in the faculty and attacking Professor Cannavo for the temerity to suggest a libertarian could ever be confused as conservative, asking "Surely, you know the difference between a libertarian and a conservative? If not, I can direct you to a classic discourse on the subject by Friedrich Hayek." The brazen arrogance suffused in that statement reminded me of a high school classmate, a self-proclaimed communist who quoted Nietzsche whenever anyone challenged something he said. It was unbecoming for him and it's extremely unbecoming of Professor Paquette to act similarly towards Professor Cannavo.

There is a fair case for the need for intellectual diversity on campus, for conservatives, women, African Americans, the gay and lesbian community, as well as many other groups whose viewpoints are arguably not well represented. But if Professor Paquette is serious about having a debate on the topic, he should refrain from making attacks on his colleague which undermine any merit his argument might have, and focus on the issue on hand. After all, the goal of this debate is to ensure that students get a fair, diverse, excellent education, not to childishly score points at the expense of a member of the community.

Will Leubsdorf '10

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To the Editor:

From my vantage point as the Editor-in-Chief of *The Right* (Hamilton's conservative newsletter), a member of the Hamilton Republicans, and a friend of Mr. Benjamin Noble's, I am writing in response to last week's letter from Professor Robert Paquette. First, Mr. Noble's article did lack substantive examples of classroom political bias and he was generally unsuccessful in making the argument he seemed to be trying to make. The shortcomings of Mr. Noble's article have been laid out in greater detail over the past few weeks by numerous individuals and groups (including Professor Peter Cannavo) and there is no need to reprise those here. Professor Paquette, however, seems to be stirring devils out of dust, simultaneously filling in Mr. Noble's gaps while accusing Professor Cannavo of failing to account for them.

Professor Cannavo's letter was a rather minimal critique of Mr. Noble's article, pointing out its logical downfalls and making an open call for (and defense of) civic and political engagement. He is certainly not guilty of "gross distortion," "caricature," a "public flogging," nor of attempting to "intimidate" or "browbeat" Mr. Noble (or, for that matter, others who would stand in defense of inappropriate political bias in the classroom) as Professor Paquette suggests. I thank Professor Paquette for offering readers a number of examples of the behavior of "activist" professors (presumably) in Hamilton classrooms, but Mr. Noble offered no such examples and his article is the focus of this debate. For expanding the discussion, I am grateful for Professor Paquette's letter, but he is unjustified in his criticism of Professor Cannavo's direct response to Mr. Noble's article.

Professor Paquette enters an extended tirade against Professor Cannavo that is insulting to readers and to an exceedingly intelligent professor of political theory. Students drawn to Professor Paquette's letter certainly understand that there are different types of conservatives in the world, and Professor Cannavo undoubtedly appreciates the nuances within conservative ideology. Professor Paquette's survey of conservative ideology and demand that Professor Cannavo "define conservative" would be laughable in its irrelevance to the issue at hand if it were not a direct insult to the intelligence of all involved.

Professor Cannavo, of all Hamilton faculty members, has demonstrated a willingness to work in an unbiased manner with students and colleagues of all political and ideological stripes (a fact to which he accurately referred in his letter). Professor Paquette has chosen the wrong target for his educational and informative lecture.

Professor Paquette concludes his letter by expressing his admiration for Mr. Noble's "courage" given "the current academic climate," but throughout his letter he ignores Mr. Noble's journalism. One's courage with respect to an unpopular viewpoint is irrelevant if one cannot successfully communicate that viewpoint. Mr. Noble was unsuccessful in his attempt to communicate his viewpoint and Professor Cannavo pointed that out. Professor Paquette has found fit to complete Mr. Noble's insufficient article in his own way and then to brashly convict Professor Cannavo for failing to respond to arguments Mr. Noble did not make.

Professor Paquette is permitted (as is every reader of *The Spectator*) to voice his (political) views in the newspaper but he should have taken his own advice in this case and called Professor Cannavo into his "office for a friendly conversation." Instead, we find Professor Paquette, with his public lampooning of Professor Cannavo, guilty of his own charges.

Alec Denton '07

Response to the ISC

Dear Editor:

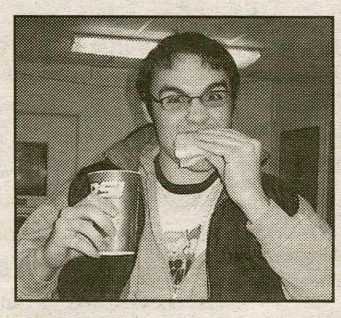
I view the response to my article "Why you shouldn't pledge" leaves me with mixed feelings. On one hand, I was expecting a more compelling argument in favor of Greek Life. I wonder if the ISC is conceding all the points in my article that they did not address. On the other hand, I'm happy that I've received a response, but think the ISC misinterpreted some of my points. The word "exacerbate" means to make more violent, bitter, or severe, I claim that Greek Societies exacerbate social isolation on the hill. They are by no means the only force doing so. Greek Society promotes socialization, but only to a limited extent. I've met people through Greek events, but most of these people were Greeks themselves (or future pledges). Rush events are not appropriate for upperclassmen. So Greek Societies foster socialization during the first semester for freshmen, but they only foster socialization within a given Society. Friendships formed during rushing will be partially predicated on the freshman pledging the Society. When a freshman chooses against pledging, he is weakening many friendships s/he may have made with the society s/he was rushed into. Thus, rushing only offers limited social pathways and those pathways will be cut off if a freshman doesn't pledge. Since pledging entails dedication to a single group of people for most of the spring semester, it isolates freshmen from the social opportunities. After pledging, Greeks are not isolated by external forces. However, it seems like most of them limit their social activities based on the stereotypes of their Societies. You'll find Greeks in almost every campus activity. But that's to be expected, if Greeks compose 700 people, it would be improbable for them not to be involved on campus.

The ISC goes on to make claims without verifying or explaining them. How does Greek life promote leadership? Wouldn't the Greek leaders still be leaders if they weren't part of their societies? Why do years of senior polling find that Greeks are highly satisfied with college? I can think of several reasons: perhaps Hamilton College caters and appeals to the sorts of people of the Greek mindset, by the time Greeks are seniors, they've forgotten the horrible things during pledging, and lastly, when Greeks are seniors it is they who control the new class of pledges, they can force pledges to do all sorts of odious tasks such as their laundry. The Greek system is hierarchical; the seniors are satisfied with it. But if you had a poll of freshmen in the middle of pledging, I'd imagine you'd find non-Greeks more satisfied than Greeks. The ISC still hasn't explained to me why a student should pledge, or why pledging is a necessary part of Greek Life. Why is it necessary for students to submit themselves to the arbitrary will of a Society in order to join the Society? None of the other clubs or activities on campus requires arbitrary and undisclosed tasks and services for membership.

Being a member of a Greek Society does not fully confine somebody, but it limits their social activity more than they would realize. As a non-Greek I often hear students (Greeks and non-Greeks) saying very harsh things about Societies and discriminating against people simply because of their Greek affiliation. I know that the stereotypes are false more often than true. But people often resort to stereotypes when they're excluded from something. A Greek Society remains mysterious to those outside of it. Membership in a Society causes unnecessary tension in many social interactions. I believe that we came to college to socialize and interact with people of many different backgrounds and perspectives to gradually decide who we are and who we want to be. Greek Society, as long as it remains secret, places people into stereotypes before they can adequately develop themselves and limits people's interactions due to external stereotypes.

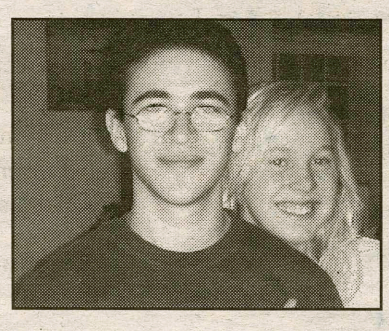
Robin Gane-McCalla '07

For more responses to *Spectator* articles, the upcoming alumni trustee elections, and information on ongoing Hamilton controversies visit the website of **Hamilton College Alumni for Governance Reform** at http://hcagr.squarespace.com/



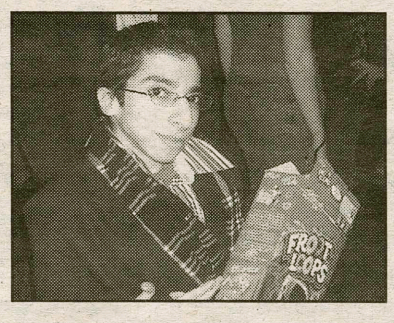
"Not my grandmother if that's what you are talking about."

Steve Allenger '09



"Toothbrush."

Alejandro Hernandez '10



"Ketchup on papusa."

Hector Acevedo '08

"On myself - for truth or dare."

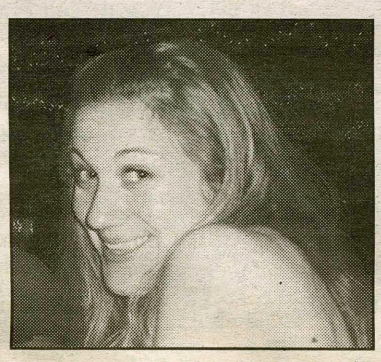
Matt Mirandi '10

Hamilton Unscripted

This week's question:

What's the craziest thing you've ever put peanut butter, mayonnaise or ketchup on?

by Rita Tran '09 and Tyrone Evans '09



"I once tried peanut butter and ketchup sandwiches."

Alexa Ashworth '09

"A woman."

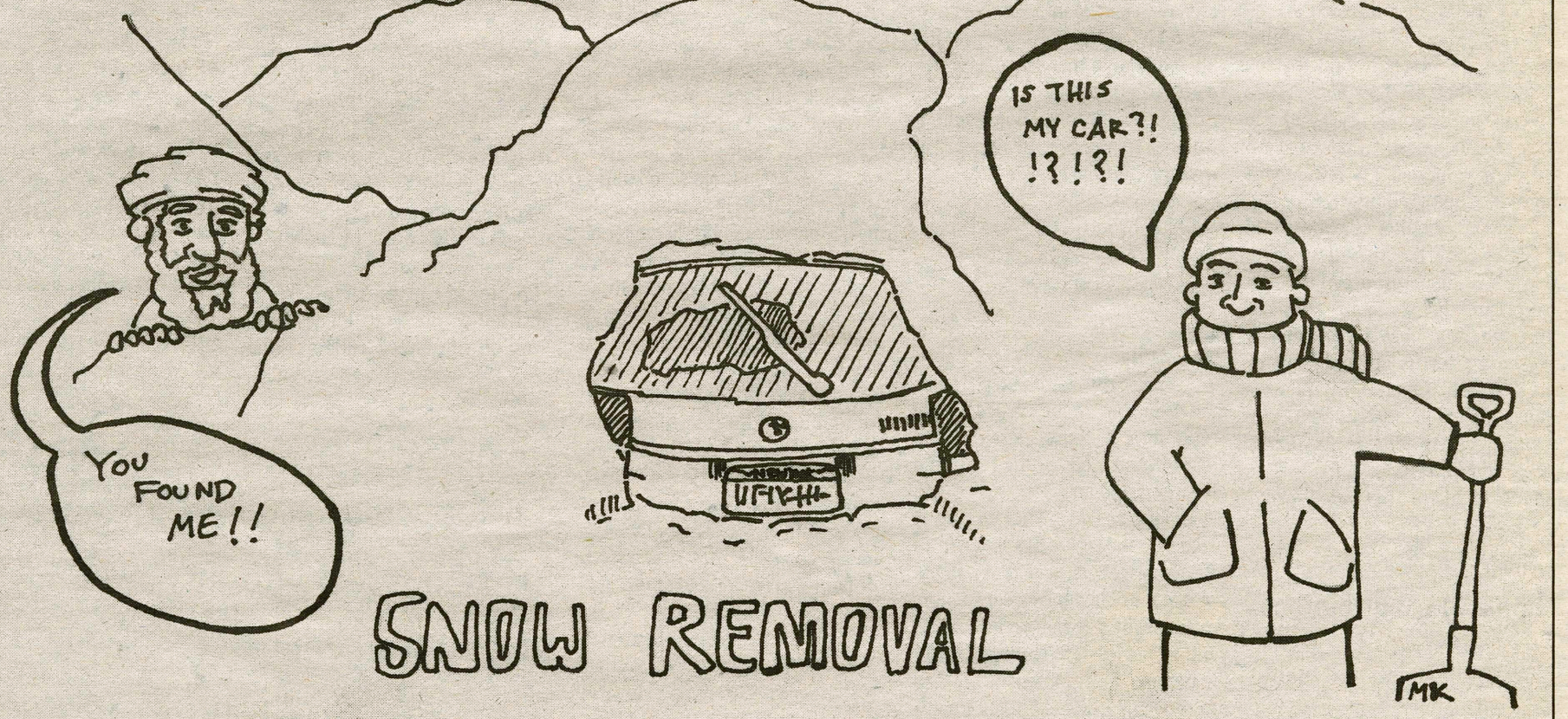
Lisa Fontes '09

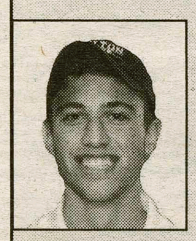
"Ketchup on oreos."

Bree Roberson '10

"Your mom."

Melissaa Balding '09

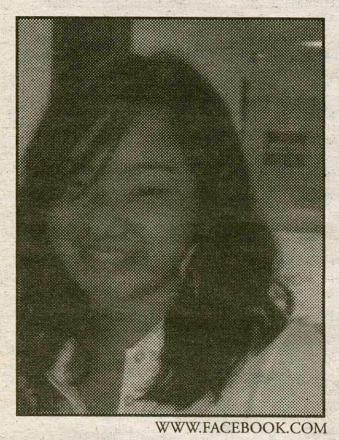




by Matthew Kotlove '09
STAFF CARTOONIST

RA Profile: Rita Tran

by Brittany Albert '10
FEATURES WRITER



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM

Girls on Rita's floor describe her as creative, insightful and caring. "Who else has a 'write something sweet about the girls on our floor' bulletin board?" says second floor North resident Mariam Ballout '10. Here's a look into the life of one of Hamilton's favorite Residential Advisors.

Full Name: Rita W. Tran
Hometown: Boston, MA
Other Activities and Campus Involvement: Bonner Leaders, Diversity and Accessibility Committee, Residential Life, ACS Mentoring

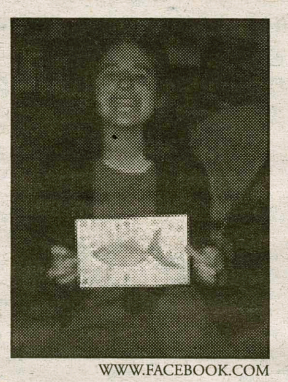
What is your favorite...
Movie: Pretty Woman.
Book: Charlie and the Chocolate factory.
Color: Yellow because it's happy.
Thing to do in Clinton, NY: In Clinton, I don't know. But I love to go into Utica because I feel like people's perception of it is not how the city really is.

If you could travel anywhere in the world where would it be and why?
Japan. I've been there. I love the food, the language, the people and the atmosphere.
Do you plan to study abroad? China this coming summer and fall.
Do you have any pets? A puppy named Lucky.

What is the best part about being an RA?
I think it's nice to find the balance between being an RA and being a friend. People are usually the authority or the friend and it's hard to find that balance. Being an RA allows you to find that equilibrium.
What has been your funniest moment as an RA? When the girls on my floor decided it was Easter in September and taped marshmallow Peeps to everybody's door. It was classic.
Do you have any advice for future RA's: Don't let the fact that you think you're going to have to sacrifice your social life stop you from being an RA. You won't.

Voices from Abroad: *F*%#ed Up in France*

by Katie Naughton '08
FEATURES WRITER



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For those of you who haven't yet noticed, my column is kind of like a cheap, slightly less interesting rip-off of David Sedaris. You should stop reading my junk and go check out his books. He seems to get himself in much more interesting situations than I manage to.

With that being said, I'd like to dedicate this column to my favorite Hamilton College misanthrope (you know who you are) and to one of Sedaris' best lines, which appeared in a *New Yorker* article entitled "In the Waiting Room" and was delivered in the midst of a conversation between two French people in a hospital waiting room with Sedaris, who was clothed in only his underwear due to a language related wardrobe malfunction. (My friend Laura of salle de bain/cuisine fame said of Sedaris, "It is amazing how well he describes our lives without ever having met us!")

His line, a question, is, "Did you see anything f*%#ed up today?" (It is really much better in context – Google it!)

French people, Sedaris decided, have a higher tolerance for f*&#ed up things. A man sitting in a hospital waiting room in his underwear might not make the cut. Unfortunately for you, I am an American. I have a pretty low tolerance. Here's my list of the mildly f*$%ed up things I've seen in the past few days. They're pretty much all in the metro.

1. The other day on the metro, a man started fastening a black sheet, presumably with magnets, to the pole I was holding onto. I quickly moved away to a seat on the other side of the car. He proceeded to play some cheesy French pop song and wiggle around two puppets above and out the side of the sheet. Really just wiggle. There wasn't much more to it. It was difficult for me not to laugh, not at the content of the puppet show itself, but at the dead serious Parisians, and this man who had decided that probably the best idea to make money was to make sock puppets and do a show on the Parisian metro.

2. As I was entering the metro station near my house, a guy hanging around the doorway started talking to me. I didn't have to feign ignorance, because I really had no idea what he was saying, but I did realize he was using the informal "tu" form of the pronoun you. If you're going to try to panhandle me for money or a free ride on the metro, buddy, at least have the proper respect to use "vous." The fact that this bothers me is a little disturbing itself because it implies that I'm becoming a bit French about pronouns and politesse, and trust me, that is unnerving.

3. A lot of vomit on the stairs of the metro. It looked like French onion soup. Sorry.

4. Today as I was coming home from the Bibliothèque Nationale François Mitterrand after six hours of researching on Ezra Pound's The Cantos (a day pass, by the way, costs 3€30, which was a bit alarming itself to those of us used to free public libraries). Getting on the metro, I almost chose a different car because it looked like this lady was absolutely sobbing in the one I was headed for. I realized she was laughing at the last minute though, and went with my original choice, probably smiling a bit because there was this large happy woman laughing a belly laugh in the metro car full of grim Parisians. I may have looked over at her and the woman she was sitting with a few times during the trip, and was watching them as they got off. The other woman, not the large, laughing one, once having exited the metro car, looked directly in my eyes and smiled. I noticed as the rest of the car was unloading that they hadn't walked out of the metro. As the metro pulled away, she smiled again, waved her hand above her head, and yelled, "Au revoir!"

5. My forty year old Italian kind-of-a-big-deal oboe professor has red high-top Converse All-Stars, which she received as a Christmas gift from her brother, per her request.

6. Around midnight on a Friday, a French guy with a shaved head was talking up some girls standing near me. His plan was to say things in English to them. I think they spoke French, but hey, whatever. Choice lines included (in a heavy French accent) – "Look my shoes!" "These are shoes of the street." "I go to the discotheque, but my shoes are ghetto." And "I am silly." It was like the weirdest "Learn French FAST!" cassette tape system you've ever heard.

And, for those of you tracking my progress, we have gotten a dryer to replace the exercise bike in our shower/exercise/laundry/hardware/important document room, so I can shrink my pants back to a size that fits, and I have discovered two new idiomatic uses of the word for duck, "canard." The first I learned from Claire, my grammar teacher, when I told her about last weeks column – dipping a bit of sugar in coffee (or champagne, or whatever beverage the adults are drinking) to give to children, as was a custom in my family when I was a child, is known as donner le canard or "giving the duck."

The other thing I learned from a new friend from Nantes, a city in the Northeast, which according to Wikipedia is no longer a part of Brittany, though most people feel it should be. Her duck story was that when she was seven, her teacher told her she was a bad little duck and would never amount to anything. And you thought your first grade teacher was bad...

What's Cookin' in the Co-op: Sweet Seductions

by Laura Hartz '07
FEATURES CONTRIBUTOR

SOUR CREAM COFFEE CAKE:

This cake is a regular standby for getting through our Sunday night meetings. We usually double it for the whole Co-op and bake it in a 9x13" pan.

1 cup butter (room temperature)
1 ½ cup plus 1 tablespoon sugar
2 eggs
¾ cup sour cream or plain yogurt
1 teaspoon vanilla
½ teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
2 cups flour
1 cup pecans
1 teaspoon cinnamon
¼ teaspoon nutmeg (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 350°.
2. Beat butter, 1 ½ cup sugar, egg, sour cream, vanilla, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Add flour until well-blended.
3. Combine remaining ingredients in a food processor, coarsely chopping the nuts.
4. Pour half of batter into 8"x8" square pan, then add half of the food processor mix, then add rest of batter, and finally top with remaining pecan mix.
5. Bake for 50-55 minutes until a toothpick comes out clean.

CRUMB-TOP APPLE PIE:

One crust for nine-inch pie
peacans
caramel

For the filling:
¼ cup sugar
3 tablespoons flour
1 tsp cinnamon
pinch of salt
5 ½ cup apples

For the topping:
½ cup brown sugar
½ cup flour
½ cup oats
½ cup butter

1. Roll out crust and shape into pan.
2. Preheat oven to 375° F.
3. Cut apples and toss all filling ingredients together (peel optional). Put filling in crust in pan.
4. Melt the butter and mix all of the topping ingredients together; it should be crumbly and chunky. Spread this mix on top of the apples. Bake for 40 – 50 minutes until the apples are soft and the filling is somewhat bubbly.
5. Remove from the oven and sprinkle with pecans and caramel if desired.

SNOW DAY WAFFLES:

(adapted from King Arthur's Cookbook)

After running through the house yelling "snowday!", we all tucked into some hot waffles with syrup and then went straight back to bed or outside to build forts.

2 eggs
1 ¾ cups milk
½ cup butter, melted (1 stick)
2 teaspoons vanilla
2 cups flour
2 tablespoons sugar
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
fresh blueberries (optional)
chopped nuts (optional)

1. Beat together wet ingredients. Add dry ingredients.
2. Cook in preheated waffle iron (2-3 minutes)

Add in blueberries or chopped nuts according to your preference.

"'What's Cookin' in the Co-op is a weekly collection of yummy concoctions from the co-op kitchen at Woollcott House. Try 'em out in your common room kitchen or impress Mom and Dad over break! Thanks to the co-op members for sharing their culinary creativity.

Restaurant Review: Minar, an Authentic Indian Treat

by Mallory Reed '10
Features Editor

Last Friday evening as the snow came down in thick, fluffy flakes, my friends and I were more than happy to take refuge in Minar Fine Indian Cuisine. It was an excellent night to hole up inside and enjoy a relaxing meal and good conversation with some lovely ladies. After making the short trek over to Utica, we were more than ready for an authentic Indian feast.

As we walked into Minar, an enticing aroma of Indian spices hit us with a blast of warm air. This signature Indian restaurant smell never ceases to bring me back to the time when I happily lived on buckets of shrimp curry, basmati rice and naan from a local Indian restaurant in my hometown. As we were led to a reserved table for four, my mouth watered in memory of my gluttonous childhood and with anticipation of the meal to come.

The inside of Minar is not the typical Indian restaurant burst of color and clutter I am used to. The pine slanted ceiling gives a slightly Adirondack-y feeling and white walls are mostly bare with a few pieces of Indian artwork. The airy main dining area we were seated in features 12 tables covered in white tablecloths. A trip to the bathroom revealed a small bar area and another smaller seating area. All in all, the layout in Minar creates a slightly impersonal and cold feeling that does not correlate at all with the warm, attentive service.

We took our seats and began to peruse the menu to the soft sounds of sitar music emanating from the speakers. Minar's menu reads, "The Joy of Eating lies in the Art of Cooking," prompting smiles all around the table. The menu is large and diverse, featuring over 80 appetizers, vegetarian and nonvegetarian main dishes, homemade breads, specialty beverages and homemade desserts.

As we agonized over the menu, one of our waiters supplied us with a basket of poppadum, which is a large, homemade paper-thin crisp. He readily offered information about this standard Indian snack, and told us it is made from a mixture of spices and mustard in homemade dough, which is then fried in oil. The poppadum was served with little dishes of cool mint chutney and a mystery red vegetable. This little teaser left a slight tingle on my tongue, exciting my mouth for the rest of the meal.

After much deliberation we decided to stick to main courses and share dishes so we could try as many different foods as possible. Because we wanted to share and some of my friends were not into spicy food, we requested everything mild. However, food is cooked mild, medium or hot by request. We ordered Chicken Tika Masala, Shrimp Curry, Malai Kofta vegetable balls and Vegetable Jal Frozy along with two naans (traditional Indian bread) and one deep-fried puri bread.

Two of my friends also indulged in mango lassis, which are thick, fruity yogurt drink served chilled over ice. As we all shared sips, one of my friends described the smooth, rich beverage as "kind of like a mango creamsicle." The bright orange lassis were served in tall glasses with straws to slurp up the creamy mango goodness.

As we were waiting for our food, two male waiters were efficiently taking care of the entire room. They were very attentive, checking up on us and refilling our water glasses regularly. Minutes before our meal arrived, one waiter replaced the small white plates that we used for the poppadum with large white plates. The empty plate shining up at me made me yearn for the time when it would be filled with food.

The wait was not long and various dishes filled with sauces of deep red, brown and green soon covered our table and we joked that it looked like we were about to paint our faces in vibrant warrior paint. A large bowl of white basmati rice and a basket of naan arrived soon after. We were ready to dig in!

The table erupted into motion as we began to pass dishes and fill our plates. It was nice to be in a group so we could try a variety of meat, seafood and vegetable dishes. We lucked out and actually got to try two shrimp dishes for the price of one as my beloved shrimp curry arrived as shrimp saag. However, the mistake was quickly fixed as a piping hot bowl of shrimp curry made it to the table for no extra charge.

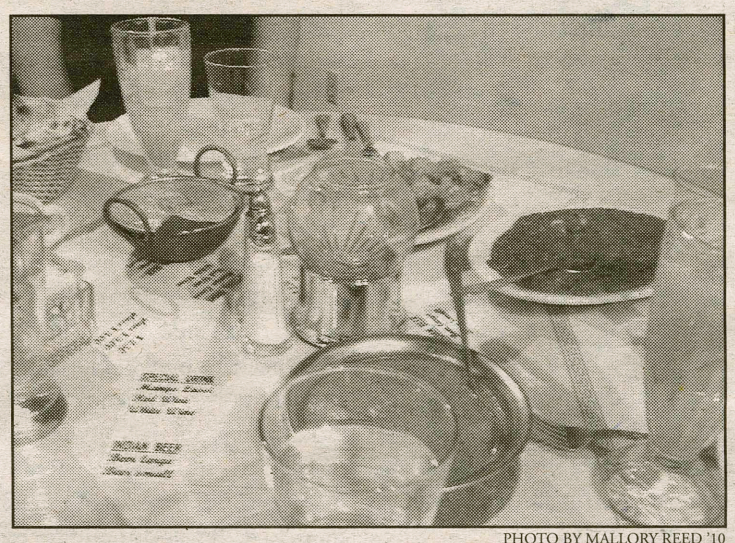

PHOTO BY MALLORY REED '10

Dishes cover a table at Minar Fine Indian Cuisine.

When I eat Indian food I like to place a large scoop of rice in the middle of my plate and surround it with a bit of each of the different dishes. I believe Indian food is all about the sauce, which is delicious on top of the rice and on the naan. The basmati rice is pure white and speckled with cumin seeds, which leave a hint of exotic flavor. I could eat just the rice plain and be happy, but how could I when there were bigger and better things to try?

The two naan arrived cut in half so each of the four of us got to enjoy a large piece. Indian naan is kind of like a really thick tortilla or pita and is cooked in a special oven, called a tandoor, so that it gets a few crispy bubbles of air on top. The naan was chewy and had a slight crunch at the very edges. It was a little too heavily buttered for my tastes but still, for me, it's hard to go wrong with naan. Puri is deep-fried puffy bread, which is way too greasy for me, but for a fried-food fiend, puri could do you no wrong.

As I began to work my way through the dishes, each bite was a new burst of flavor and texture. My favorite of the vegetable dishes was the Vegetable Jal Frozy, which was a colorful mélange of potatoes, green beans, corn, peppers, onions, peas and more, covered in a light ginger sauce. Although the vegetables were a little on the mushy side, they were deliciously saturated in the fragrant honey-brown sauce. The other vegetable dish we ordered, Malai Kofta, was a pot of golf-ball sized spheres made from cashews, homemade cheese and veggies, covered in a deliciously creamy sauce. The nuggets of rich flavor were moist and saucy on the outside and slightly crumbly on the inside.

When my shrimp curry finally showed up, it wasn't the curry of my childhood dreams, but it was still delicious. The curry sauce was thick, flavorful and plentiful. Although it probably would have been better with a little extra spice, mild was the theme of the day. The big disappointment of the meal was the small, tough shrimp. The same shrimp showed up in the thick shrimp saag, shrimp with creamed spinach, and I wasn't enthusiastic. Where were the plump, juicy shrimp I was craving?

For me, the highlight of the meal was the Chicken Tika Masala, which came as several large chunks of chicken swimming in a fiery red sauce. The chicken was tender and moist and it's flavor came through even under the creamy sauce. As one of my friends scooped up the sauce with her naan, she said, "I could eat this as soup!"

Overall, the meal was a nice balance of flavors that were rich but not overly heavy. Besides the bread, nothing was too greasy or heavily buttered. Although I would have liked to try the house biryani, we had a raisin phobia among the group, and the traditional rice dish was a no-go. We also missed out on the tandoori entrees, which arrive at the table on sizzling plates after being cooked in the same oven as the naan.

We four girls did some pretty good damage and leftovers were sparse. However, the waiters kindly supplied us with extra rice to take home some of the delicious sauces. As we lingered over our dirty dishes, our two waiters were still close by but not smothering, filling our water glasses and asking if we wanted more rice. The service at Minar is friendly, knowledgeable and efficient without being overbearing.

Portions are generous and prices are reasonable. Each dish we ordered hovered somewhere in the ten-dollar range. Four entrees, two drinks and three breads came to sixty dollars without tip. Minar Fine Indian cuisine is located at 609 French Road in Utica, barely 7 miles from campus. For truly authentic Indian food, Minar Fine Indian Cuisine is a real treat!

What's Cookin' in the Co-op: *Snacker's Special*

by Laura Hartz '07
Features Contributor

ANI'S SUPER YUMMY VEGAN PUMPKIN COOKIES

Last Thursday Brad came over and played his guitar while we ate cookies and sipped tea. Ani busted out these totally delicious vegan cookies and we didn't have much left at the end of the night.

4 cups pumpkin puree
2 cups brown sugar
1 cup other sugar
¼ cup earth balance or other vegetable-based spread
3 teaspoons vanilla
3 teaspoons cinnamon
3 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
4 cups oats
4 handfuls of raisins

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Mix sugars, oil, pumpkin, and vanilla.
3. In another bowl, mix flour, baking soda, spices, and salt.
4. Combine both bowls and then add the oats and raisins too. Let that hang out for a while so the oats can soak up some of the moisture.
5. Drop by teaspoonfuls on a greased cookie sheet and bake for 13 minutes.

You could add some allspice, cloves, nutmeg, and walnuts too, if you like.

JANE'S SPICY NUTS

We eat a lot of salad at the Co-op. Our leafy greens are topped with anything ranging from sprouts to pita chip shards, maple-sweetened cranberries and sliced apples. Jane made these walnuts a few weeks ago and they were great on top of a spinach, cucumber, yellow pepper salad. (Recipe from California Walnuts company).

1 egg white
1 tablespoon water
4 cups walnut halves
1/3 cup sugar
2 teaspoons salt
1 ½ teaspoons ground cumin
½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
¼ teaspoon garlic powder

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees.
2. Whisk egg white and water until foamy, toss nuts in an evenly coat.
3. Combine the rest of the ingredients in a different bowl.
4. Mix nuts and spices together, evenly coating nuts.
5. Spread nuts evenly on an oiled cookie sheet.
6. Bake for 20-25 minutes, stirring a few times.
7. Cool and eat!

BUCKWHEAT AND SEED CRACKERS

1 cup buckwheat flour
1 cup white flour
½ cup sesame seeds
¼ cup poppy seeds
½ cup granulated sugar
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon dried sage
4 tablespoons butter
1 cup milk
coarse salt

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees.
2. Mix all dry ingredients.
3. Cut butter into dry ingredients until butter pieces are very small.
4. Pour in just enough milk to make workable dough (not too sticky, but you don't want it to crumble apart).
5. Knead dough a couple of times. Roll it out very thing (less than 1/4 inch) on a lightly floured surface. Sprinkle some coarse salt on top and roll it in lightly.
6. Cut the dough into rectangles or crazy shapes and transfer to a cookie sheet.
7. Bake the crackers until cracker-looking, a little light brown and crunchy, about 20 minutes. (adapted from King Arthur's cookbook)

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Being There: *Observations From the Rock Swing*

by Amy Tannenbaum '10
Features Writer

The rock swing slowly rotates back and forth. Upstairs, the sounds of clanking silverware and stacking plates mingle with lunch conversation and occasional shouts to friends. The smell of cigarette smoke mingles with the smell of teriyaki from McEwen and the clean scent of fresh cold air each time the door opens.

People enter, turning right to Opus or heading up the stairs to McEwen. A girl in a blue coat comes in, talking on her cell phone, and welcomes the rock swing as her seat. Laughter from two friends on a couch fills the lobby. Students descend from McEwen, struggling to zip up coats while toting paper cups full of hot beverages.

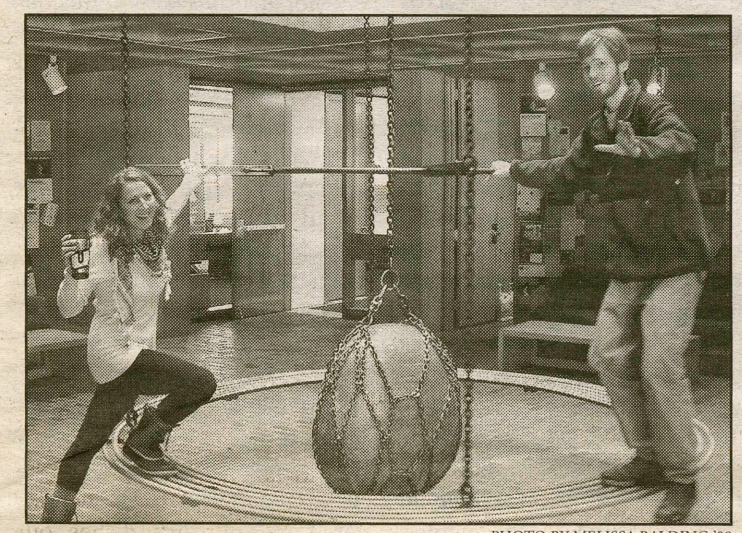


PHOTO BY MELISSA BALDING '09

Hamilton students chill out at the rock swing.

Outside, the glow from the bright snow livens up the gloomy gray day. In this heat wave (at least, compared to what we've had for the last few weeks), heavy coats have been replaced by lighter jackets or even just sweatshirts, although one rainbow-colored knit hat catches my eye.

Opus customers, coffee cups in hand, blow on their drinks as they step outside, heading to class, the gym or maybe a dorm. A tour goes by; the group is huge because it's President's Weekend, and the guide's voice floats into the lobby, detailing Hamilton's weekend activities.

A boy coming down from McEwen leaps onto the rock swing, jostling it as hard as he can. His friends skeptically look on, wondering aloud about the swing's sturdiness (from personal experience, it can hold at least 5 people just fine).

Upstairs, I spy a pair of bright green pants, brightly colored scarves, lots of Hamilton sweatshirts and Uggs. The cashier gets busier as students pour in from classes that just let out.

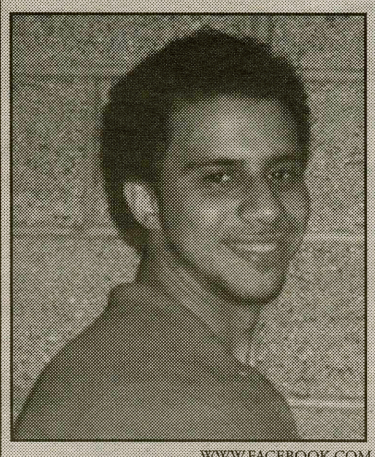
The sizzles from the stir fry station get louder, competing with the hustle and bustle of noontime traffic. For the first time, I really look at the posters surrounding the rock swing. They advertise summer jobs and programs, events, graduate schools, study abroad and even money – amusing ads featuring a perfect 50's -style kid and a grinning baby.

Two girls come in from Opus and stop at the rock swing for a chat; one worries a chain with her fingers and rests a knee on the coils. Soon, they are joined by two other friends and they sit, rocking in gentle harmony.

The smell of Opus overwhelms me – pumpkin muffin, chocolate chip cookies, spicy Gypsy Soup... It's too much to resist. Passing the staircase, doors and glass walls, I join the hungry throng in line.

From Where I Sit: *Campus Diversity*

by Pablo Abreu '10
Features Contributor



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Immigrants make America the most diverse nation worldwide. Every single individual who lives in the U.S., except for the Native Americans, is an immigrant. No matter which race, ethnic group or religion one belongs to in America, he or she is an immigrant.

Similarly, Hamilton College is a diverse environment. Students from different races, ethnic groups and religions attend Hamilton College, creating an on-campus "melting pot." However, it is a melting pot that still has issues such as segregation. Like other Hamiltonians, I believe that it is just a matter of time until we overcome the issue. On the campus, the majority does not make segregation occur; it is something that the minority creates by separating from the majority. In the past decade, diversity on campus has increased, causing the existing segregation to boil in the pot. At the present time, Hamilton students segregate themselves depending on their races, ethnicities and religious beliefs.

The minority (all of us who are not Caucasian) separate from the majority due to racial differences. I believe the reality is that the better the connection one has with another person, the more one relates to that person. Race prevents this connection between Caucasians and most minorities. At Hamilton College racial segregation is evident most notably in the dinning halls. Asians, Blacks and Latinos often eat together because they are part of the minority, which serves as a bond among the racial groups. Increasing the campus diversity can eliminate this racial segregation. This is true because a more diverse population would make the students focus on what is "beneath the skin," resulting in a greater interaction between races.

On the Hill, groups also segregate depending on their ethnicity. Different ethnic groups think differently from one another in terms of politics, economics and social class, due to the traditional qualities that compose each group. For instance, a liberal Latino would not feel comfortable talking to a white conservative concerning an immigration issue. It is this discontinuity that prevents different ethnic groups from interacting with each other. The Hill is an example of this discontinuity: ethnic groups separate according to similar traditional ideas. Again the solution is to gather a greater diversity of ethnic groups, so that ethnic groups on campus share and interact.

Religion is another concept that creates segregation at Hamilton College. Although race and ethnicity are the main issues, religion also plays an important role. Today, religion still shapes how many individuals think, behave and develop friendships. On campus this is reflected in the existing organizations. Many religions on campus have their own organizations. It appears like each organization works separately, yet a few of the organizations share activities and responsibilities. Although it is understandable that each religion has different beliefs, it is also expected that religious organizations can collaborate to create a more social environment. This is not only happening with religious organizations as all student organizations in general try to contribute to the well being of the campus social life. By populating the campus with greater religious diversity, individuals are able to practice their religion freely, but at the same time, they learn to interact and respect different religions on campus.

Racial, ethnic and religious diversity can be all causes of segregation in the world and on college campuses. I believe that the connections we seek within our diversity are evident in our identities as human beings. Hamilton's identity continues to change as diversity increases, thus making the campus a more global environment. Individuals from different races, ethnic groups and religions bring different ideas to the campus. The higher the quality of ideas the less biased our learning environment. Diversity on the Hill provides students with at least two benefits: a better college experience and a better understanding of the world.

After all, Gandhi once said, "I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stifled. I want all the cultures of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible." Today, I say: I do not want Hamilton College to accept only a few races, ethnic groups and religions. I want all the races, ethnic groups, and religions of all lands to be blown about the Hill as freely as possible.

Lotions and Potions: The Holy Grail of Beauty

by Elizabeth Kosar '10
Beauty Expert

The Holy Grail. For some it's a chalice, or a Monty Python movie. But for many women, it's that one beauty product that could turn you from the Ugly Stepsister into Cinderella. Ever wonder why so many movies have "makeover" scenes? It's because beauty is all about the magical transformation, preferably one that can happen quickly.

Here are my top five products of all time. (None of them involve weird, illegal-in-the-U.S. ingredients. There's something sketchy about buying moisturizer from Kazakhstan.)

1. **Neutrogena Clear Pore Cleanser/Mask**-Everybody I've ever know who has had heinous acne and started using this face wash has gotten their skin to clear up almost immediately. Unlike most acne washes, it is not too harsh, you don't peel off layers of skin along with those pesky blemishes.

WWW.PICS.DRUGSTORE.COM

2. **Dr Bronner's Peppermint Liquid Soap**-I've got to admit there's this part of me that thinks that maybe I could be a minimalist with about two beauty products. This soap has 18 uses (according to the manufacturer), but I like it as a body wash/clarifying shampoo. I've also used it as a laundry detergent when I ran out of Gain.

HTTP://IMG.EPINIONS.COM

3. **Oscar Blandi Proteine di Jasmine Protein Mist-** I have thin, straight hair and my friend has thick curly hair. Yet we both find this product to be the only one that protects our hair from frizz, adds volume and smells INCREDIBLE.

WWW.SEPHORA.COM

4. **Smith's Rosebud Salve**-Smells like a fresh English garden, and moisturizes lips like no other. You can also put this balm on dry cuticles, ankles or under your nose when you are around smelly people.

WWW.PICS.DRUGSTORE.COM

5. **Jojoba Oil**-This is a relatively recent discovery. I used jojoba oil to remove eye make-up, help with dry patches and clean my Uggs. That's right, it's practically magic.

WWW.SKINTHEORY.COM

Debunking Myths About the Common Cold

By Alex Hodgens '09
Science & Technology Writer

It seems the recent cold spell that hung over the Hamilton campus this past week led to more than a few students coming down with "colds". In light of this, it is necessary to shed light on some myths of the common cold.

Myth 1. You are only susceptible to a cold when your immune system is weakened
Facts: Once the cold virus enters your nose you are highly susceptible to infection no matter how healthy or normal your immune system is. Some research even suggests that people with healthy immune systems are even more prone than those with weak immune systems to developing the cold symptoms after an infection.

Myth 2. You need to be cold or chilled in order to catch a cold.
Facts: A study looking at this myth found colds to be no more numerous or severe in volunteers who were "chilled" than volunteers who were not. Whether a person is "chilled" or not does not matter once the virus enters the nose.

Myth 3. You should feed a cold and starve a fever.
Facts: There is not much known about the origin of this saying but it is known that there is no scientific evidence backing it up. Increased consumption has not been proven to cure a cold, however, it can make a person suffering from a cold feel better.

Myth 4. You should not treat the symptoms of a cold because they help you get over a cold.
Facts: Sneezing and nasal secretions (runny nose) do not remove the cold virus from the body, as it is multiplying inside the nasal cells where it is safe from these excretory processes. Nose blowing moves nasal secretions into the sinus cavity where they can produce more inflammation and secondary bacterial inflammations. Coughing, sneezing and nose blowing all increase the presence of the virus by spreading it to other people.

Myth 5. Taking large doses of Vitamin C will help prevent a cold.
Facts: This is unproven, there is no conclusive evidence suggesting that large doses of Vitamin C will help you prevent getting a cold.

Myth 6. (Never heard this one before) Whiskey and Lemon Juice is a good remedy for a cold.
Facts: Drinking fluids can help the body clear mucus from the bronchial tubes but alcoholic beverages have no healing effect.

In summary, colds are caused by viruses and when exposed to those viruses you are equally susceptible to catching a cold no matter the state of your immune system, your temperature or possibly even how much Vitamin C you are getting. *For more information see: www.commoncold.org/special1.htm*

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Springboards for Debate: Are Science and God Mutually Exclusive?

By Elijah LaChance '10
Science & Technology Writer

I've noticed a strange phenomenon while talking to science majors around Hamilton. The moment someone mentions God, the science major rushes to defend the area of his or her science that has historically come under fire from religious organizations. Biologists defend evolution; geologists defend the age of the earth; physicists defend gravity; astronomers defend that the world is round. Some people might ask why I'm making such a big deal over this observation. "Science," they say, "just doesn't go with God. They can't coexist. They're mutually exclusive." These people seem to have a striking belief that God has no place in any aspect of science, including the lives of scientists. To nobody's surprise, I'm sure, I disagree.

As a lifelong Catholic, I have experienced for myself the difficulties of living my faith and living my major (neuroscience). This past Wednesday was Ash Wednesday, and all Catholics get an ash cross on their foreheads to remind them of their mortality. As I walked across campus with my black cross painfully obvious on my head, I got more than a few curious glances, and even a couple sarcastic comments of, "Hey, you've got somethin' on your head." Despite this distrust that has been built up between science and religion, overall I think the defensiveness and hostilities are unnecessary and misguided. Why should a biology major feel the need to rush to the Darwin corner the instant God comes up? Issues surrounding science and religion don't have to be us vs. them.

Contrary to the beliefs of some, many religious people on the Hill probably don't want a battle when they bring up God in a discussion. At a recent Christian Fellowship meeting, the members prayed for different areas of academics on campus. It was interesting to note that students didn't pray for an end to evolution theory or that geologists admit the world to be only 6,000 years old, but rather that a spirit of openness could allow God's healing power into the lives of academics, including the members of the Fellowship, across campus.

Unfortunately, some science majors seem determined to take even this innocuous act as a manifesto of aggression. One astronomy major responded, "I don't need prayers, and forcing them on me is repugnant. I have the stars; I don't believe in God and God can't take my science away from me." While this student's atheism is entirely understandable and acceptable, he would do well to consider prayer an act of goodwill rather than an attempt to pry science textbooks from out of his grasp and replace them with Bibles.

Indeed, many great scientists and academics throughout history have been profoundly religious. Galileo is a well-known example despite his unfortunate persecution, saying he "saw the glory of God in the orbs and movement of the planets." Descartes, thought of by many as the founder of modern psychology, was openly religious. Other examples include Albert Einstein, persecuted for his Judaism, Copernicus, Johannes Kepler, B.F. Skinner, Rachel Carson and modern day science greats such as Stephen Hawking and Sir Francis Crick. There is no reason a person cannot be both religious and a great scientist, and yet the modern world seems to want to put an unbreachable rift between these two areas.

For those who doubt my belief that the modern world is attempting to separate science and religion, you need look no further than the plots of recent books such as *The Da Vinci Code* and *Angels and Demons*, both by Dan Brown. In both of these books, Mr. Brown places science and religion firmly on opposite sides of the battle and invents outrageous turns of events to get them to take each other on. Frankly, while the entertainment value of these books and others like them (Brad Mercer's *The Book of Fate*) are considerable, we must be very careful in applying them to our lives. Ash Wednesday is the closest many religious people come to openly "tagging" themselves. Many don't even go that far depending on the variety of the religion they practice. Unlike in Hollywood, there aren't "good guys" and "bad guys" – there's only a whole bunch of "good guys" trying to make it through life together.

Some people might be asking why I bothered writing this article, as it's not in what might be called my "usual vein." Some might argue that talking about the relationship between God and science has little "practical" value. I admit that this topic isn't something that comes up often, but it is something that permeates the lives of people who practice science. At the start of Lent this year, I believe its appropriate to take a minute and objectively consider that by throwing out religion as the antithesis of science, many people lose a great area of potential value in their lives. God and science can, have and do coexist in the lives of many scientists and in many general scientific fields today.

Comments? Opinions of your own? ***Visit our blog: specsciandtech.blogspot.com***

Love Biology? Join *Biomatters*!

Bio Lounge (2nd floor S.C.) , 9:15 p.m. every Tuesday.

Don't miss these upcoming Biology Seminars

February 26
Dr. Denise Ferkey, Biology Dept., University of Buffalo.
"Too much of a good thing? Regulation of G protein signaling and chemosensation in C. elegans".

March 5th
Dr. Thomas McCarthy, Biology Dept., Utica College.
"Exploring implications of the risk allocation hypothesis."

All Biology Seminars are held in Science Center G041 at 4:10 p.m.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Weekly Charts

by Nicole T. Dietsche '09
Arts & Entertainment Editor

MUSIC
(From iTunes)

Top Albums
1. Music and Lyrics Soundtrack - Various Artists
2. Infinity On High - Fall Out Boy
3. Taking the Long Way - Dixie Chicks
4. Corinne Bailey Rae - Corinne Bailey Rae
5. Continuum - John Mayer

Top Songs
1. What Goes Around.../... Comes Around Interlude - Justin Timberlake
2. Cupid's Chokehold - Gym Class Heroes
3. This Ain't A Scene, It's An Arms Race - Fall Out Boy
4. Don't Matter - Akon
5. It's Not Over - Daughtry

MOVIES
(Yahoo! Box Office Charts)
1. Ghost Rider
2. Bridge to Terabithia
3. Norbit
4. Music and Lyrics
5. Tyler Perry's Daddy's Little Girls
6. Breach
7. Hannibal Rising
8. Because I Said So
9. Night at the Museum
10. The Messengers

BOOKS
(From The New York Times Best Seller List)

Paperback Fiction
1. THE MEMORY KEEPER'S DAUGHTER, by Kim Edwards
2. THE DREAM-HUNTER, by Sherrilyn Kenyon
3. IRISH DREAMS, by Nora Roberts
4. THE HOUSE, by Danielle Steel
5. HONEYMOON, by James Patterson and Howard Roughan

Paperback Non-Fiction
1. THE MEASURE OF A MAN, by Sidney Poitier
2. THE GLASS CASTLE, by Jeannette Walls
3. EAT, PRAY, LOVE, by Elizabeth Gilbert
4. DREAMS FROM MY FATHER, by Barack Obama
5. THE FREEDOM WRITERS DIARY, by the Freedom Writers with Erin Gruwell

Chris Thile: Not Much of a Dancer, Hell of a Musician

by Eric H. Thomas '09
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Keeping with tradition, last week's Feb Fest brought a host of different musicians out into the tundra of Central New York and up onto the Hill. Perhaps most notable among these, Chris Thile played a set last Tuesday accompanied by his new How to Grow A Band and the all-female trio, Sometimes Why.

Thile is no stranger to the college circuit, and is certainly no stranger to the music business in general. His previous band, a small outfit you might have heard of named Nickel Creek, has to-date released three major-label albums.

Nickel Creek (2000), *This Side* (2002), and *Why Should the Fire Die?* (2005) have between them earned the band a total of five Grammy nominations, with *This Side* winning in 2003 for "best contemporary folk album."

But lately Thile has been more focused on his solo work, releasing *Deceiver* in 2004 and, this fall, *How to Grow a Woman from the Ground.* Unlike *Deceiver*, which was experimental and largely electric, Thile's latest release has focused on his skills and experience with bluegrass and folk. Since he first began playing mandolin at age 5, and was well known for it by age 12, these skills are considerable.

The night at Hamilton College began in a pretty subdued fashion. The opener played music that was, as one student sitting near me described it, "amazing to listen to, but not much to look at." This was just as well, since most of the student body didn't roll-up to the venue until Sometimes Why's set was almost over (though there were an unusual number of adults sitting on the main floor).

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Chris Thile, mandolin player extraordinaire, was the main attraction of this year's Feb Fest.

When Thile came on, things were different. Before the show, numerous CABies had warned me "just wait for Thile, I heard him in sound check... it was incredible."

No stranger to Nickel Creek or to Thile's solo work, I chuckled to myself, thinking that maybe these CAB students just needed to experience some bluegrass.

But I was wrong. When the How to Grow A Band took the stage, everything was tighter, faster, more precise and edgier than most of the emaciated and long-haired rockers that play this campus could even dream of.

With sometime-collaborator Bryan Sutton on guitar, Noam Pikelny on banjo, Gabe Witcher on violin, and Greg Garrison on bass, the quintet broke only long enough to retune (and for Thile to tell one or two eccentric stories). When the talking stopped, it was mostly revitalized standards (typically upbeat) and Thile's country ballads (downbeat).

The band's versatility was apparent, however, as several other members played their own creations, which ran the gambit from speedy instrumentals to comic (and cacophonic) laments. Guitarist Bryan Sutton even premiered a piece that he had only been working on since the start of the tour.

For those of us thinking that musicianship was in short supply, Thile and his compatriots provided a welcome relief. It was both something to hear, with frequent four and five part vocal harmonies, and something to see, as Thile's solo work seemed to cause him to enter a trance and dance.

The dancing was mediocre, but the mandolin work was enough to make even any jaded rock and roll fan embrace a world where the grass is blue, the music is fast, and the bourbon is sweet.

WHCL 88.7 Show Profile

by Tom Helmuth '09
Arts & Entertainment Contributor

This Week's Show:
Musical Barbeque with DJ Alec Denton '07

Tuesdays 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Alec Denton, the otherwise enigmatic host of **Musical Barbeque**, has consistently served a healthy heap of blues and jazz with tasty sides of folk, bluegrass, jam, Motown and good-time rock & roll right off the grill-top every week since 2003.

Alec has been a DJ since his first semester at Hamilton. He currently serves the WHCL executive board as an assistant music director, a position he has held since his freshman year.

The BBQ has been a vehicle for world premiere album releases and interviews from the likes of the Good Luck Joes, Mosaic Whispers, Topsy Washington and Zeaskeez since its early days.

In addition to these artists, you can expect to hear the likes of Bob Seger and the Silver Bullet Band; Gram Parsons; Traffic; Medeski, Martin and Wood; Stephen Stills, and Art Pepper when you tune into the program.

With a listenership that extends from New York to Pennsylvania, and from Texas to Denmark, this is one cookout you do not want to miss.

As always, you can tune in to WHCL on 88.7 FM or www.whcl.org.

Upcoming Campus Events

by Nicole T. Dietsche '09
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Tuesday, February 27

The Art Department Presents: Visiting Artist Steven Pippin

Steven Pippin's work is a combination of sculpture, photography and science. He converts pieces of furniture into "pin-hole" cameras to create his photos. He used a series of washing machines and his own naked body to emulate Edward Muy Bridge's 19th century animal locomotion experiments.
4:10 p.m. KJ Red Pit

Thursday, March 1

Hamilton Democrats Present: "Out of Balance: ExxonMobil's Impact on Climate Change"

This film not only shows the impact of global warming, and what can be done about it, but also how the largest company in the world effects governments, media and citizens. See www.worldoutofbalance.org for more information.
7:00 p.m. Science Center Kennedy Auditorium

Thursday, March 1

The Women's Studies Department Presents: Janet Halley: Define and Punish: New Feminist Reforms in the 'Law in War'

Janet Halley, the Royall Professor of Law at Harvard Law School (an english professor at Hamilton in the 1980s) will be speaking about her critique of the rules about sexual violence in war.
8:00 p.m. KJ Red Pit

Saturday, March 3

The Dance Department Presents: The Spring Dance Concert

This year's Spring Dance Concert will feature a senior project by Christina Brewer, as well as Elaine Heekin's revision of "Overlap" '97 and Bruce Walczyk's presentation of "Out of Order Out of Place," among other performances.
8:00 p.m. Wellin Hall

National Portrait Gallery Visit

by Alex Ossola '10
Arts & Entertainment Writer

After years of renovation, the National Portrait Gallery reopened to the public on July 1, 2006.

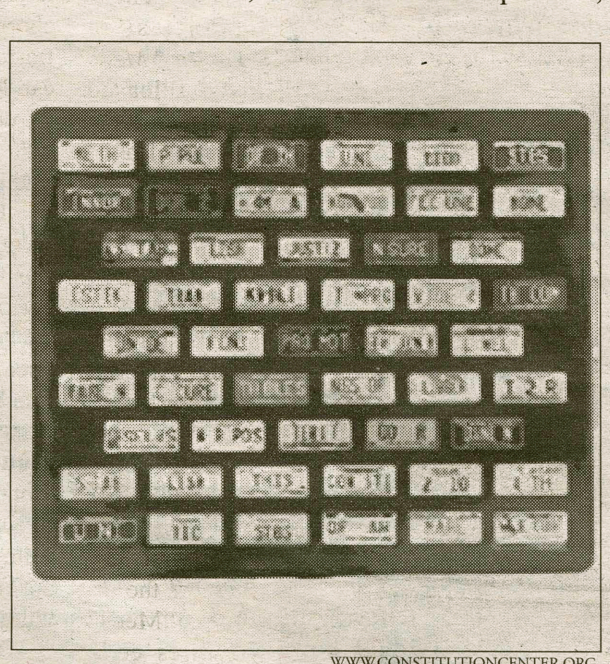
For people who are not art-lovers, a portrait gallery may sound like a punishment worse than Chinese water torture; however, the Portrait Gallery contains the traditional, stodgy portraits of American icons as well as varying exhibits of a universal history (the Portrait Gallery is merged with the American Art Museum).

The permanent exhibition of "Twentieth-Century Americans" contains images of major political, cultural and societal figures of the Twentieth Century and is sure to speak to even the most cynical of skeptics. Of course, the requisite exhibits of Revolutionary America, Colonial America and Civil War-Era America present myriads of historical information intriguing even to those who are not history buffs.

Ben Franklin's famous portrait is on display, as well as George Washington's. However, here are a few exhibits and works that are off the beaten track and may not stick out to the virgin museum-goer.

A national portrait competition was held in 2006 and some of the portraits on display from this contest are astonishing in their honesty, unique mediums and overall originality.

The slightly unsettling bronze sculpture, entitled "Adams Memorial," is located in the American Art Museum. It is a genderless, shrouded figure, communicating the Buddhist idea of Nirvana in memory of a patron's wife who committed suicide.



WWW.CONSTITUTIONCENTER.ORG

The Smithsonian is home to various pieces of intruiging art, including the fifty-two word preamble spelled out with license plates.

Other works that are not quite as emotional include a piece in which the license plates of all 50 states spell out the preamble to the Constitution, as well as a room-sized neon outline of the U.S. Each state has a television monitor showing symbols of each. For example, Idaho has potatoes, Kansas has a clip from *The Wizard of Oz*.

A chandelier covered with chachkis (that's little trinkets, for you all who don't know Yiddish) looms overhead as you ponder whether an obese woman reading a newspaper and eating an ice cream sundae is real or just silicon, of which she is actually made.

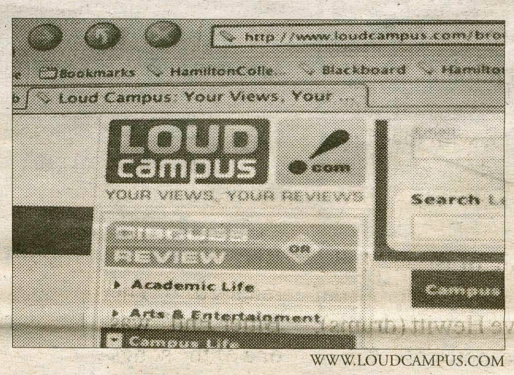
Even if you are not an avid connoisseur of the arts or at all familiar with American history, the joint National Portrait Gallery and American Art Museum offers a fantastic and cost-free way to enjoy a Washington afternoon. The gallery is located on Eighth and F Streets in NW Washington, D.C. Be sure to pay the museum a visit on your next trip to the Nation's capital.

Loudcampus Launches at Hamilton

by Rebekah Mintzer '09
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Picture your daily computing routine. You open up Hamilton.edu, check your mail and then switch over to the Facebook. Thanks to Yanni Hufnagel and a dedicated team of promoters and webmasters, however, you may just be adding a new step to your Internet regimen, a stop at loudcampus.com.

LoudCampus.com is a brand new website that provides a forum for college students at Hamilton and at other colleges across the country to share information about a diverse set of topics ranging from the campus party scene to professor ratings to national politics. The website launched here at Hamilton on Monday, and has already generated a ton of hits. On its first day alone, 60% of the Hamilton population logged on to loud campus to sign up for message boards and check out existing content. One look at the site is enough to understand why- a colorful and well-organized interface allows students to create personal profiles and then enter discussion boards and write reviews. The site is broken down by topic, so opinions of fellow Hamilton students and soon students from other colleges too, will be easy to find.



WWW.LOUDCAMPUS.COM

LoudCampus.com launched this past week.

"We need students to become active users and engage in edgy, controversial, and opinionated topics that get our audience's attention," says Hufnagel, co-founder of Loud Campus.com, who has been at Hamilton all week to promote his new website. "Ultimately, we want to become the 'in place' for students to interact with each other, not only on their campus, but at campuses across the nation."

Hufnagel graduated last year from Cornell University. Like so many college graduates, he wanted to avoid a real world office job. While working as a bartender, Hufnagel and fellow Cornell alumnus Doug Sokolik came up with the idea of creating a comprehensive website that could connect college students all over the U.S.

"We spent weeks huddled around our computer screens until one night we said, 'that's it.'" Hufnagel recalls, "That's a concept that has not been explored, that's a concept that allows us to reach our end user, that's a concept that we could have fun building, that's a concept that we are familiar with our audience, and perhaps most importantly, that's a concept that allows us to go back to college!"

Hufnagel and company came up with the idea of launching LoudCampus.com at Hamilton because it is a small school with an energetic and intelligent student body. Loud Campus representatives are thrilled with the response that they have gotten so far from Hamilton students and Hufnagel is personally impressed with the hospitality of everyone on the Hamilton campus.

Students have certainly returned the sentiments of appreciation.

"Loud Campus has the potential to not only be a great resource to Hamilton but also to act as an outlet for communication," says Jamie Fried '07, "I think once students realize how fun and informative Loud Campus can be they will be more inclined to post things."

Hamilton students have the unique opportunity to be the first campus nationwide to take advantage of this website, and be cyberspace trailblazers of sorts. Plus, if you are looking to discuss topics like what bands should be brought to campus, who throws the best frat parties or why certain candidates should run in the 2008 presidential election, Loud Campus is the exclusive place to go for Hamiltonian opinion.

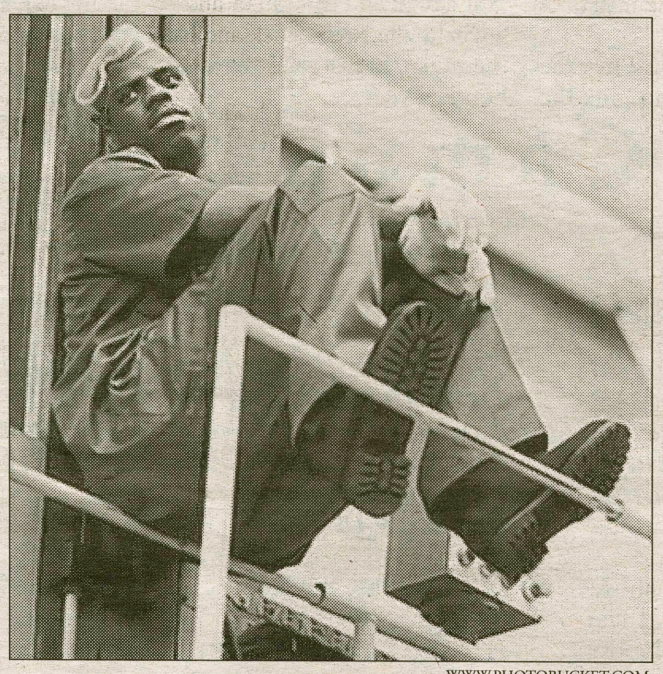
"We are far from any other college based social network that is out there," Hufagel says, "We are a complement to sites like Facebook, YouTube, or MySpace. Think of us as a student newspaper meets People magazine, but with all the content generated by the user."

Rhymefest to Perform On Campus Tommorow Night

by Nicole T. Dietsche '09
Arts & Entertainment Editor

This Saturday Februrary 24, CAB is proud to present hip-hop artist Rhymefest. A Chicago native, Rhymefest famously beat Eminem in a freestyle battle at the Scribble Jam in 1997 and is the Grammy Award-winning co-writer of Kanye West's "Jesus Walks." Kanye West and Rhymefest have been close friends since meeting in Chicago at age 15. West not only produced Rhymefest's first album, *Blue Collar*, which was released in July of 2006, but also had him open for his nationwide tour. Besides working extensively with West, Rhymefest has also collaborated with artists such as No-I.D., Mario and Ol' Dirty Bastard.

Rhymefest, who is signed to Mark Ronson's Allido Records, has gained the reputation as one of the most charismatic, intelligent and humorous rappers in the freestyle rapping circuit. His lyrics are both witty and honest, and addressed the daily struggles that the average working person experiences.



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Rapper and Hip-hop artist Rhymefest will perform on campus this Saturday.

He is quoted on his website (www.rhymefest.com) saying that "The entire concept behind [his] project is to fight the wackness that rap has become... There are enough people trying to be gangsters without me going that route... What we need in hip-hop right now are rappers who are both truthful and entertaining."

Rhymefest has made numerous television appearances, particularly on various MTV shows with Kanye West, but he also appears in puppet form to perform the *Crank Yankers* theme song and Chicago PBS station's local affairs program, *Chicago Tonight*, as the first rap artist ever on the program.

Rhymefest is waiting patiently to break out in the public eye. His rare hip-hop event at Hamilton is sure to be a chance to see what all the buzz surrounding Rhymefest is all about.

He will be performing in the Filius Events Barn this Saturday at 8 p.m.

British Band Placebo Finds Success in the UK and US with New Album *Meds*

by Nicole T. Dietsche '09
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Every decade seems to have its own United Kingdom phenomenon. The sixties had the Beatles, the Kinks, Queen, Led Zeppelin; the seventies and eighties had a good showing with the Sex Pisols and the Clash, the nineties produced Oasis and Blur, among others, and it appears that we are presently at the cusp of another influx of popular United Kingdom bands with artists like Coldplay, Snow Patrol, Lily Allen and Lady Sovereign. The renaissance has begun, but unbeknownst to the casual music listener, the invasion has long since been in the works.

After years of near complete ambiguity, Placebo, a three-piece ensemble of Londoners, are finally making waves in the American music pool. They have been a small blip on the American radar since their inception in 1994 and the release of their first album *Placebo* in 1996, with the single, "Nancy Boy," which was a huge success in the UK.

In the United Kingdom, the band, consisting of Brian Molko (guitar, vocals), Stefan Olsdal (bass) and Steve Hewitt (drums), initially gained notoriety due to the members' sexuality (Olsdal is gay, Molko is bisexual and Hewitt is straight) and their open drug use, but that hasn't stopped them from becoming successful.

Placebo has close glam-rock ties due to their straightforward guitar playing, Molko's high-pitched voice and multiple appearances with David Bowie, including his fiftieth birthday party at Madison Square Garden. After their second album, *Without You I'm Nothing*, Placebo fell out of the British spotlight, but picked up a solid fan base in France. Molko's fluency in French led to the song, "Protégé Moi."

In 2000, the band released their third album, *Black Market Music*, which stylistically was very similar to their first album. Their next album, *Sleeping with Ghosts* (2003) was more adventurous and less polished, and the single, "The Bitter End" was released. "The Bitter End" was one of the songs Placebo played at the Live 8 concert in 2005 (The other song, "Twenty Years" was off of the band's 2004 CD/DVD, *Once More With Feeling*).

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What's that you see Brian Molko? Oh yes, that's right, success. Placebo is storming the American music industry with their unique sound and new album.

Another unforgettable song from Placebo is "Pure Morning." With lyrics like "A friend in need's a friend indeed/ A friend with weed is better/ A friend with breasts and all the rest/ A friend who's dressed in leather," combined with hypnotizing guitar and drum loops, the song is catchy and addictive.

The band's sixth album, *Meds* was released in March 2006, but was leaked on the internet two months earlier. Despite the leak, sales for *Meds* hasn't suffered, as it debuted at number four in Australia, and number seven in the UK.

The first single off the album, "Meds" features eerie female backing vocals from Alison Mosshart, from the band The Kills. Also featured on the album is Michael Stipe from REM on the song "Broken Promise."

The second single off the album, "Infra-Red" is as equally catchy as "Meds," with a deceptive dance-y intro that becomes overlaid with Molko's dark lyrics: "One last thing before I shuffle off the planet/… someone call the ambulance there's gonna be an accident" which leads seamlessly into the electronica-tinged chorus of "I'm coming up on infra-red/ there is no running that can hide you/ cause I can see in the dark/ I'm coming up on infrared,/ forget your running, I will find you."

Placebo has been steadily working their way into the American consciousness. They have performed a cover of The Pixies' "Where Is My Mind" with Pixies vocalist/rhythm guitarist Frank Black, as well as "Without You I'm Nothing" and a cover of The Cure's "Boys Don't Cry" live at a one-night only gig at Wembly Arena with Robert Smith of The Cure. Another version of "Without You I'm Nothing" features David Bowie dueting with Molko.

Their song, "Every You Every Me" was the opening song of the movie *Cruel Intentions,* and they also recorded a cover of T.Rex's song, "20th Century Boy" for the soundtrack for *Velvet Goldmine,* as well as appearing in the movie. Also, their cover of Kate Bush's "Running Up That Hill" was featured on both the season premier of the fourth season of Fox's *The O.C.*, and the episode "Judas on a Pole" in the second season of Fox's *Bones*.

The band's repertoire is impressive, to say the least, and they have already proven that they have staying power. *Meds* is a swaggering album that earns every step forward it takes.

Hard To Miss In A Crowd: The Horrors

by Nicole T. Dietsche '09
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Horrors are a very distinctive bunch of guys. If their names don't give you a hint that they aren't your ordinary rockers, then you may have missed something. Made up of Faris Rotter (vocals), Joshua Von Grimm (guitar), Tomethy Furse (bass), Spider Webb (organ) and Coffin Joe (drums), The Horrors take their job seriously.

To match their distinctive names, that may or may not sound like they all have been taken directly out of a Tim Burton movie, the Horrors look *extremely* distinctive. Uniformed in black skinny jeans and made-up to look like a cross between Joey Ramone and the victim in a horror movie, The Horrors definitely give off a vibe. When featured as *Spin Magazine*'s band to watch, their photo shoot featured them with scarves and umbrellas, giving off a very Mary Poppins vibe bordering on creepy.

To complete the distinction trifecta, the Horrors make music that you can easily recognize. Guitarist Von Grimm's signature guitar sound is created by his self-built guitar pedals, and his guitar licks are frantic and epileptic, much like the video for their first single, "Sheena Is A Parasite" (starring Oscar nominee Samantha Morton) which was banned in the U.K. for the use of stobe lights. Webb's addition to the band added an organ to the instrumental mix, kicking up the anti that much more.

The band rehearsed togehter for only two weeks before their first gig which led to instant positive publicity, recognition and an invite to the NME Rock and Roll Riot Tour.

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Five young British lads who know how to stand out from a crowd: The Horrors can't help but be unique.

While on the Rock and Roll Riot tour, the Horrors compiled a "Fan Zine" called "Horror Asparagus Stories" for the people attending the shows. It featured an A-Z list of bands (chosen by Spider Webb), a "how to distort your effects pedal" (by Joshua Von Grimm), a "how to make your own skinny jeans/ cigarette pants" (by Coffin Joe), a guide to the bands and songs featured on the magazine's complimentary CD (by Tomethy Furse), and illustrations (by Faris Rotter).

In October of 2006, the Horrors released a self-titled five-song EP in the US. All of their singles (except for their most recent, "Gloves") have been ineligible for inclusion in sales charts because of the inclusion of stickers and other freebies in the packaging. This March, the Horrors will release their first full-length EP, *Strange House* off of Loog Records.

The Horrors will be making a stop in New York on March 10 to perform at the Bowery Ball Room briefly in between extensive touring of the UK. For more about the Horrors, visit their website www.thehorrors.co.uk or www.myspace.com/thehorrors.

Stolen Babies Is a Theatrical and Macabre Musical Experience

by Nicole T. Dietsche '09
Arts & Entertainment Editor

With a name like Stolen Babies, you can't help but become intrigued by this band. Extremely unconventional and experimental, Stolen Babies makes all the other music you listen to look puny and pathetic. This four piece Goth/metal/punk/cabaret/art-rock/industrial/thrash/Tim Burton-inspired band makes music that is energetic, lively and fun. The vibe of their live shows is reminiscent of a macabre cartoon clown on acid, complete with costumes, make-up and theatrics.

Fronted by potentially insane Thai-Italian front woman Dominique Persi (according to the band's website: singing, screaming, accordion fumbling), Stolen Babies started as a twelve plus band of high schoolers called The Fratellis. "Stolen Babies" was the title of a skit from that band.

Persi joined the group after the Sharone brothers (twins Rani and Gil: electric and upright bass switching, mental guitar playing, programming, sampling and extra singing; and aggressive drumming, respectively) saw her performing at their school's winter jazz concert. Ben Rico (multiple keyboard reaching, beating, extra singing) rounded out the group that began to morph into an original, theatric and chaotic ensemble.

The originality of the band was important to the band who started their own label, No Comment Records, to release their first full-length album, *There Be Squabbles Ahead*, rather than compromise their vision.

Sleepytime Gorilla Museum's Dan Rathburn produced the record after being hand-picked by the band. Eventually, the band signed with The End Records, an indie metal label, after consideration from many other major and indie labels alike.

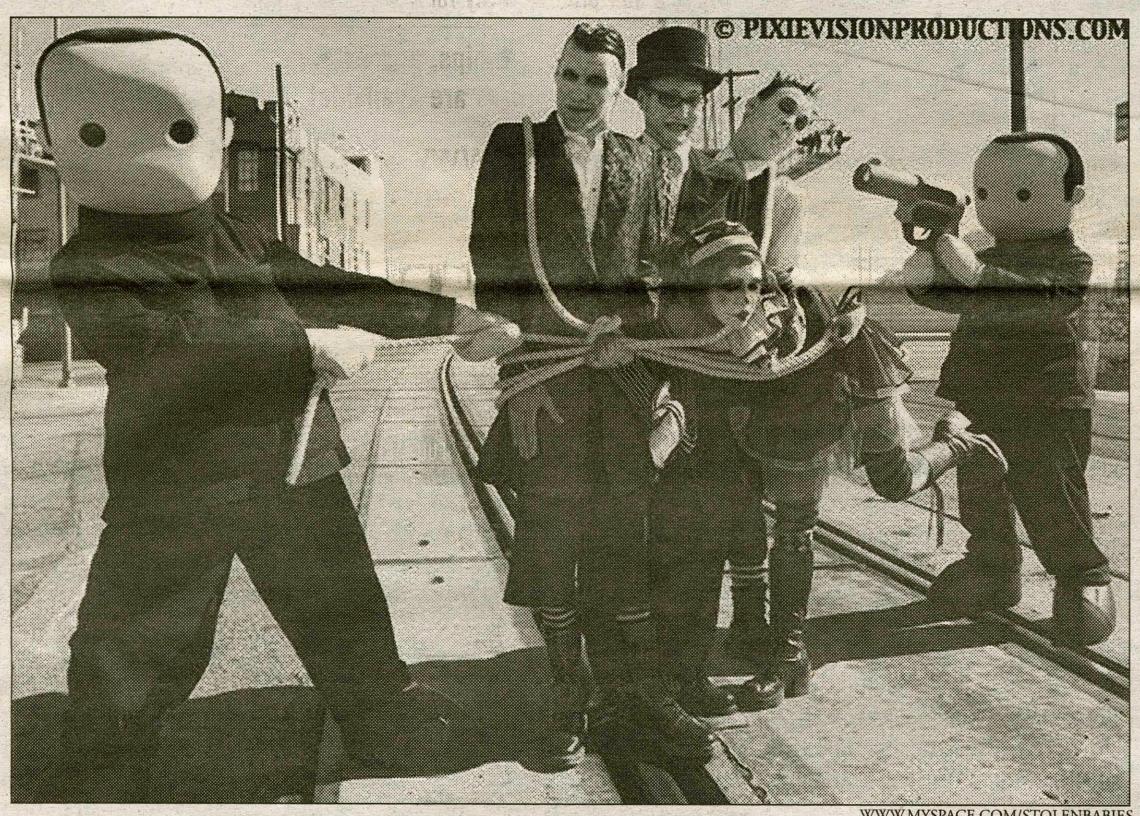
There Be Squabbles Ahead was released on October 3 of 2006 and the video for their first single, "Push Button," is available on Youtube, featuring the artwork of graphic novelist Crab Scrambly. The second the album starts you know that you've never heard anything like it before. The layers on each song are so deep and diverse that it's almost impossible to name all of the instruments.

Beside accordion, guitar, bass, keyboards and drums, also present are cowbells, oil drums, tuba and mandolin. None of these added instruments sound out of place, despite their odd location in the middle of rock songs. Everything is very organic and natural. The only downside to the added color of instrumentation on the album is that the band isn't able to incorporate all of the instruments into their live show because of their unavailability for tours. The opening track, "Spill!" begins with the an eerie toy piano that brings to mind a horror movie and dives headfirst into Persi's haunting vocals and interspersed screams.

In an interview for the April 2007 issue of the magazine *Metal Edge*, Persi states: "I actually set out to destroy my singing voice. I didn't like my singing voice. I said [to myself], you know what, singing is just not gratifying at all.... I started screaming. And I was like, wow, this is actually better for me. I've never felt more in touch with myself, ever."

Stolen Babies is a frenetic tidal wave of energy and excitement. Every song is a musical and theatric endeavor, and their live shows are a production beyond every expectation an audience could have. Stolen Babies is ambitious with their vision and appeal to a wide array of kids from every genre. The variety and originality of the band keep it from limiting itself. It's impossible to predict what to expect from this band next, but one thing's for sure, whatever they come up with, it will be completely unexpected.

There Be Squabbles Ahead is available on iTunes, the video for "Push Button" is available on Youtube and you can listen to four songs from the album ("Spill!", "Tablescrap," "Awful Fall" and "Civil Disguise") on their myspace page: www.myspace.com/stolenbabies. Also, you can visit the band's website, www.stolenababiestheband.com for more information.



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Stolen Babies are a frenetic band with impressive instrumentation and scary puppet side-kicks.

HAMILTON PLAYLIST (REMIXED!)

by Nicole T. Dietsche '09
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Some songs are great, but sometimes their remixes are even better. Most of the time, these improved songs are used in bad movies. Or more precisely, movies that are so bad that they may actually be good. Yeah, I don't get it either. Thankfully, all of these remixes aren't from the aforementioned movies.

1. "The Last Sunrise (Dusk Remix)" by Aiden – From *Underworld Evolution.* No one can deny that the highlight of this movie was Kate Beckinsale in skin tight black leather, but the soundtrack was actually really good. Aiden is one of my favorite bands for their unashamed approach to writing dark music. Hell, lead singer wiL Francis (yes, he capitalizes the last letter in his first name rather than the first) wrote a song about lighting his friends on fire. Metaphorically, of course.

2. "To The End (Rnr Remix)" by My Chemical Romance – From *Underworld Evolution.* I actually am unsure whether I like the remix or the actual song more. The remix of this song is kind of techno (which my room mate from last year may or may not have turned me on to) and has this sense of urgency that screams: "OH MY GOD, I'M BEING CHASED BY SUPERNATURAL CREATURES!" so it works well for *Underworld Evolution.*

3. "Of All The Gin Joints in the World Remix" by Fall Out Boy – From *Snakes On A Plane.* The song is slowed down... and slowed down. You can still barely make out what it is that Patrick Stump is saying (which I don't think will ever change). The original may actually be better than the remix, but the placement of this song on the *Snakes On A Plane* soundtrack makes me kind of warm and fuzzy on the inside.

4. "Black Mamba Remix" by The Academy Is... - From *Snakes On A Plane.* I think The Academy Is... is amazing, and not just because William Beckett is the lead singer (and belts out the chorus to "Snakes On A Plane (Bring It)" beautifully), but because this song is all about not caring what the critics say, and that is important when it comes to music and art. Points for TAI....

5. "War All the Time Remix" by Thursday from The Best of the Taste of Chaos – The Taste of Chaos is the winter cousin of Warped Tour, and yet another brilliant tour created by Kevin Lyman. Thursday is an amazing band from New Jersey that *just* missed the New Jersey punk/emo signing frenzy of the very late 1990s/early 2000s. Therefore, this song pretty much defines awesome.

6. "Sugar Daddy Remix" by Yerba Buena – Oh, those crazy Cuban-Latin-funk-pop-electronica beats. This band is what would have happened if Christina Aguilera, J.Lo, Marc Antony, Ricky Martin, Enrique Iglesias, Gloria Estefan and Shakira had a love child. Or children. Remix it and ... well, you get the point.

7. "Zum Zum Zum Remix" by Serapis Bey – From *Only the Strong.* THE Capoeira song that everyone knows from Mazda commercials. Guaranteed, it will be stuck in your head all day, but it's totally worth it. *Only the Strong* is the essential capoeira movie. Why, you may ask? Because it proves that all problems can be resolved with capoeira: at-risk teenagers, gang fights, murders, etc. The only time a gun is introduced in this movie (which would seem more realistic) is in the final fight scene and is kicked away within three seconds of it seeing fresh air. Poor prop gun.

8. "Stan" by Eminem featuring Dido – This song catapulted Dido to the top of the charts in the U.S., even though she was already there in the U.K. Eminem sampled Dido's *Thank You* for the chorus. Eminem raps the lyrics and then there's Dido, a mellow, piano/acoustic oriented song. It seems like it wouldn't work, but somehow it does, to quite a touching effect.

9. "Emily (Toyshop Remix)" by From First to Last – This song is a lot more electronic with fun "toy" noises in the background, sped up a bit and with a techno beat. VERY different from the original song, which is acoustic. The only thing that remains the same is Sonny Moore's strained, heartfelt voice.

10. "Comfortably Numb (Tiga Remix)" by Scissor Sisters - B-side from the aptly titled EP, *Comfortably Numb.* Scissor Sisters are a great techno/house/dance band. You probably know them from "Take Your Mama Out." Yeah, *that* band.

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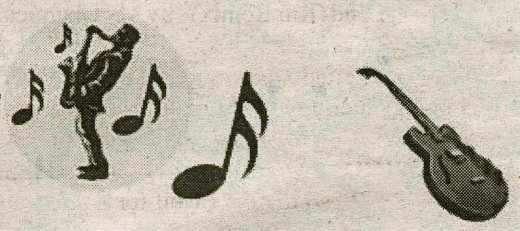
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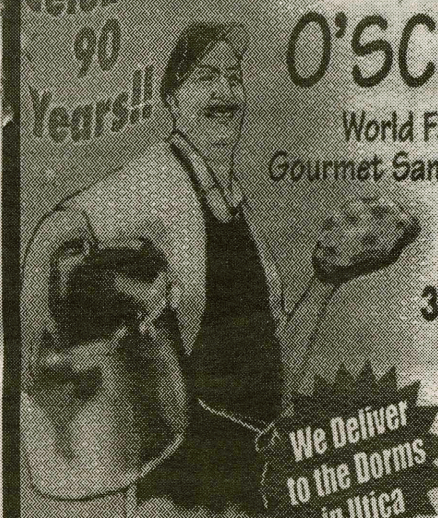

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Women's Swimming & Diving Ninth at NESCACs

PHOTO BY JOHN HUBBARD

Sophomore Beth Beaury takes a dive into Bristol Pool.

by Mallory Reed '10
Features Editor

The Hamilton Women's Swimming and Diving Team successfully wrapped up their 2006-2007 season at the NESCAC Championship meet last weekend at Williams College. The Hamilton team came in ninth place out of 11 teams, beating Bates College and Trinity College. According to Hamilton Head Coach TJ Davis, "The Women's NESCAC Championship meet is the fastest Division III contest in the country. It is a grueling three-day meet and it takes a lot to get through it." However, he added, "The girls swam well and we had a lot of fun. There was tons of energy and the team was all behind each other."

> "The Women's NESCAC Championship meet is the fastest Division III contest in the country. It is a grueling three-day meet and it takes a lot to get through it."

Davis noted tremendous performances from many Hamilton swimmers. Of Caitlin Welks '09, he said, "As far as I am concerned, she was our swimmer of the meet. She dropped time for some awesome personal best swims." Welks finished fortieth in the 500-yard freestyle in 5:36.94 seconds, and thirtieth in the 100-yard butterfly in 1:05.50 seconds. She also aided the 'B' 800-yard freestyle relay, which took nineteenth place in 8:24.57 seconds.

Davis also recognized Captain Sam Pitter '07. He said that Pitter has had a stellar four-year career on the team and "this was her best meet in all four years." Pitter led the Hamilton team in the freestyle sprint events, taking ninth place in the 50-yard freestyle in 25.05 seconds, thirteenth place in the 100-yard freestyle in 54.32 seconds and sixteenth place in the 200-yard freestyle in 1:59.15 seconds.

In the 50-yard freestyle, Captain Naomi Krakower '07 was close behind Pitter as she captured twelfth place in 25.20 seconds. Pitter and Krakower teamed up with Wendy Doster '08, and Olivia Reynolds '08 to take sixth place in the 200-yard freestyle relay in 1:40.75 seconds and ninth place in the 400-yard freestyle relay in 3:43.80 seconds. Pitter, Krakower and Reynolds were later joined by Whitney Rosenbaum '10 and captured tenth place in the 800-yard freestyle relay in 8:17.40 seconds.

Also posting impressive swims was Eve Stevens '09 who finished in the top eight in the 100-yard breaststroke. Stevens swam to a seventh place finish in this event in a time of 108.90 seconds. Stevens also captured thirteenth place in the 50-yard breaststroke in 32.60 seconds and eighteenth place in the 200-yard breaststroke in 233.90 seconds.

First-year Danielle Fortier posted drops in time as she led Hamilton in the backstroke events. She took tenth place in the 500-yard backstroke in 29.37 seconds, sixteenth place in the 100-yard backstroke in 1:03.20 seconds and twenty-third place in the 200-yard backstroke in 2:19.92 seconds. Fortier earned a spot on Hamilton's 'A' 200-yard medley relay in which she teamed up with Stevens, Rosenbaum '10 and Krakower to place ninth place in 1:53.99 seconds.

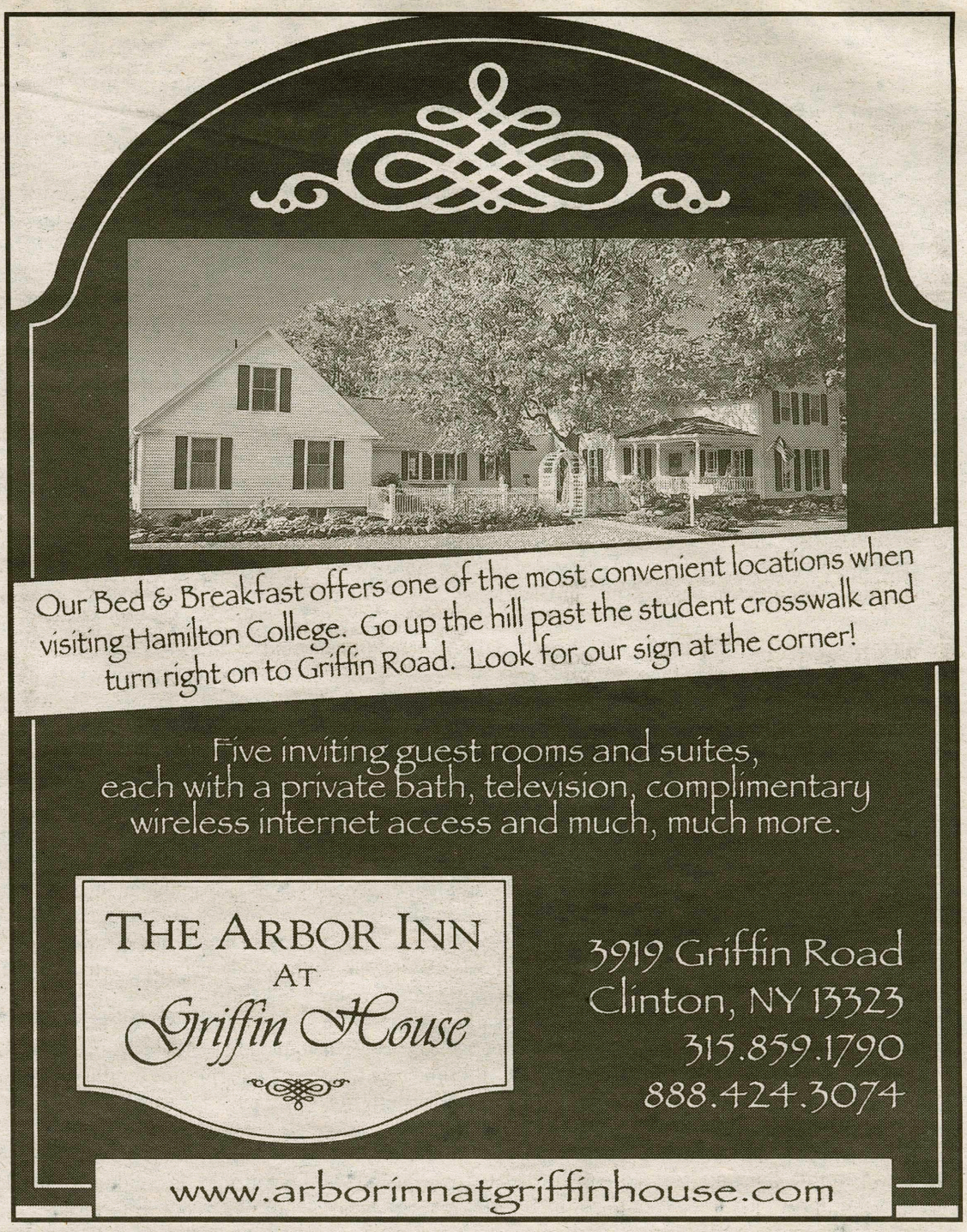
Although Hamilton's 'A' 400-yard medley relay was disqualified due to a malfunction in the relay take-off pads, Davis said the team "didn't lose their overall focus and came back strong the next day." He said, "The women were tight and had a lot of energy."

On the boards, Hamilton's sole diver, Beth Beaury '09, came in thirteenth out of 23 competitors in the 1-meter event with 311.8 points and twelfth place out of 20 divers in the 3-meter event with 335.9 points.

Overall the meet was extremely exciting with at least one National record broken in the 200-backstroke and many swimmers making the difficult 'A' cut times needed to automatically qualify for the National Championships. Although no Hamilton swimmers made the 'A' or 'B' cut times, Davis said that he was "really impressed and very proud of all the swimmers." He said the meet was an emotional end to the swimming careers of the six seniors on the team and he is sad to see them go. However, he looks forward to the next wave of recruits who will be joining the Hamilton team in fall of 2007.

Coach Davis said, "I think this season was a successful one. We had some definite challenges and met them head on! I am proud of what we learned this year about ourselves. The personal developments are the key factor in determining success. I hope that next year brings the same where people are coming in with expectations of improvement!" Check back in the Fall for some more Lady Continental swimming action!

PHOTO BY JOHN HUBBARD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SPORTS

Hoops Hopes for NCAA Berth

by Julie DiRoma '10
Sports Editor

The Hamilton Women's Basketball Team has made a lot of progress since last season. In the '05-'06 season, the Continentals were 8-16. Their much-improved record of 17-7 reflects the fact that they more than doubled their win total from last season.

In the first game of a Liberty League double-header, Hamilton faced Vassar on February 16. Hamilton's shooting percentage was phenomenal throughout the entire game, never dropping below 50 percent. Overall, Hamilton shot 51.7 percent from the field, which was more than double Vassar's overall percentage of 24.5. Liz Longley '07 was 2-for-3 from the three-point range and 4-for-7 from the field. Molly Kane '09 had a game-high 12 points. She made 3 of 5 attempted three-point shots and was 4-for-6 from the field.

Madelyn McGuinnis '09 pulled down five rebounds, three of which were offensive rebounds. Longley and Sydney Fasulo '09 contributed 10 points each. Fasulo made all six of her shots at the free throw line. Pumla Sathula '08 dished out four assists and added nine points. Sarah Schrader '09 and Jess Barrows '08 each scored eight points for Hamilton and grabbed four rebounds. Hamilton crushed Vassar, 81-37.

After the win against Vassar, Hamilton prepared to take on Rensselaer. Hamilton, Rensselaer and Union were all tied for second place in the league standings. The game against Rensselaer would most likely determine which team would continue on in the championships tournament.

On February 17, Hamilton hosted Rensselaer in the last regular season game. Both Sathula and Fasulo had double-doubles in points and rebounds. Together, they added 32 points and 23 rebounds to Hamilton's totals. Schrader and McGuinnis each contributed nine more points. The Continentals shot 44 percent in the first half and then a significantly lower 35 percent in the second half. Despite this slip in the second half, Hamilton's overall shooting percentage of 40 percent greatly exceeded Rensselaer's 29 percent.

At halftime, Hamilton led by only three points, but the team was determined to hold onto their lead. The two teams were neck and neck in the first five minutes of the second half, until Hamilton took off with the help of a three-pointer by Schrader. A layup and three foul shots by Fasulo extended Hamilton's lead. Fasulo is the Liberty League's leading scorer with 15.1 points per game and is also the leader in field goal percentage (.533). The Continentals defeated Rensselaer 59-48 and secured their spot in the league tournament.

This Friday, number three seed Hamilton will travel to St. Lawrence University to take on number two seed Union College in the Semifinals. The other two teams in the tournament are top seed St. Lawrence and number four seed William Smith. The Championship game between the semifinal winners will be held on Saturday at 3 p.m.

The Continentals are confident in their abilities and look forward to playing in the league tournament. Hamilton has won against two of the teams that will be at the tournament this weekend, and the games Hamilton lost against St. Lawrence were both within five points. Good luck to the Continentals this weekend as they fight for a chance to go to the NCAA tournament!

Squash Ends Season

by Maura Donovan '09
Sports Writer

Last weekend, the Women's Squash Team wrapped up their season. They competed at Yale University in the Howe Cup. Hamilton was ranked sixteenth nationally before the weekend but fell to Cornell, Mount Holyoke and Middlebury. Coach Sally Cockburn led the senior class to a strong finish and showed off the talented underclassmen.

The team lost to Cornell University in their first match. However, the tough matches did not hold the Conts down for long. Casey Cook put forth a strong effort at the number nine slot, almost taking the first match but falling 10-8. Krissy Rubin, even though recovering from a shoulder injury, also made the Cornell player work for each win, but couldn't come out on top.

Saturday was a new day and a fresh start for Hamilton. Playing Mount Holyoke was grueling, but three Continentals were victorious. At the number seven slot, freshman Courtney Kollmer shut out her opponent in all three matches . Seniors Monica Schwerin and Casey Cook both outplayed the Lyons. Schwerin took the number eight slot by only giving up four points in the first game and holding out her opponent on the following two. Cook's match was a close fight but she fought through the five games to victory.

The final match for the Continentals was their closest. Number 14 Middlebury just barely slid by, winning five matches opposed to Hamilton's four. Each game was extremely close and even when senior Lindsay Walsh fell short in her first game at the number three slot, she picked it back up to win the following three . Hamilton's depth gave them the great boost they needed to have victory at slot numbers seven, eight and nine. Kollmer fell in her first game, but came back to get the win.

Next, the seniors stepped up to round out Hamilton's lineup. Monica Schwerin dominated the number eight slot, barely letting the Panthers get any action. Finally, Cook was faced with a huge battle in the number nine spot. She fell in the tiebreaker in the first game, and then bounced back in her second. Cook came out swinging in the final match and dominated.

The team's season ended with a win. One player will continue on in the individual championships in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Finishing up 10-8, the Continentals are already pumped up for a great season next year.

Swimming off to NESCACs

by Ezra Rosenberg '10
Sports Writer

The Hamilton Men's Swimming and Diving Team is beginning competition today in the three-day-long NESCAC Championships at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. Each day begins at 10 a.m. with preliminary rounds with the top 24 qualifiers heading on to the finals, held each evening.

All of the swimmers from the competing schools are ranked prior to the meet with their best times so far each season for the events in which they are participating. This serves as an outline or projection for how each swimmer will finish and when they will compete in the preliminary rounds. The event hosts all 11 teams in the league and allows for a maximum roster size of 24 swimmers.

Heading into NESCACs, Hamilton has Todd Johnson '08 seeded first in the 50-yard backstroke and second in the 100-yard backstroke. Johnson is hopeful to post a qualifying time for the NCAA Championship at the NESCACs. Mark Hodges '07 is notably heading into the meet with the ninth best time in the 1000-yard freestyle.

The seed times serve as only a benchmark and are usually broken by each swimmer as the training goal is to peak at the Championship meet. Hamilton has been carefully tapering their training with the goal of being prepared for the best meet and times this weekend.

Coach T.J. Davis is confident that the entire team has shown great development and that the tapering has been successful. Through broken swims (where a single event is broken into parts and swum separately) and rest, the Continentals look to be in top form. Coach Davis noted that the men are sitting higher in the water, are kicking harder and have increased hand speed; all are encouraging signs. The swimmers have more energy and look efficient heading into the meet. This should be reflected in substantial drops in the times for all events.

Other methods that the racers employ to try and shave seconds off their seed-time are shaving their heads and donning Fast Skin 2 Speedos that are modeled after shark skin and worn by the best swimmers in the world. The suits have less resistance against water then shaved skin and are truly remarkable.

Individually, Steve Chaponis '10 is appearing to be ending especially strong after a steady improvement all year that resulted in his lifetime best time of 24.82 in the 50-yard butterfly. Johnson looks notably strong as he quests for his NCAA bid. Finally, Christian Warner '07 is finishing in sharp form heading into what might be his final Championship event.

With these encouraging signs based on tough training, Hamilton looks to improve on their seventh place finish last season in the 2006 NESCAC Championships. Last season Hamilton had a smaller team and went to the meet with a scrappy attitude. They needed every person to contribute their all, essentially creating a team with the large attitude akin to that of a much larger team. Despite having a larger roster in 2007, the team wants to maintain that same attitude and toughness. One of the goals for the Continentals is for every man to do well in prelims and make it back to score points in the finals at night.

The relay teams will be a key to Hamilton's success this weekend. Coach Davis emphasized the honor that comes with being on a relay, and he strives to make sure the men understand the situation they are in and realize the importance of their swims. Relays are especially important because they count for double the points that any individual event bestows.

The team seems to be in perfect form to improve on last year's performances. Coach Davis predicted a fourth or fifth place finish saying, "placing fourth would be a big push forward for our team."

This weekend's NESCACs will be a challenge for the Continentals, but they are in an ideal position to improve on last year's finish.

Track & Field Excels

by Kate Greenough '09
Sports Writer

The Margaret Bundy Scott Field House has been bustling with activity as the Men's and Women's Track Teams prepare for the New York State Collegiate Track Conference Championships today and tomorrow at St. Lawrence University. After a disheartening third place overall finish by both the men and women's squads, the team has spent the past several weeks training and fine tuning their techniques and getting in top shape. After a multitude of exceptional performances at last weekend's Cornell Invitational, the continentals expect big things from team leaders.

The teams competed among strong Division I teams at the non-team scoring Cornell Invitational and several standout athletes proved they could keep pace with athletes from the likes of Cornell and Colgate. Among these performances was sophomore sensation Akilah Bond, who broke two school records, in the Triple and Long Jumps. Bond, who got her fifth Liberty League award at the league meet ended up placing sixth overall in NCAA Division III with her personal and school best of 11.51 m.

The former record was held by Julie Elmuccio '03, with a leap of 11.02 meters, set in February 2000. Chris Culver's 1984 school long jump record of 5.16 meters also didn't stand a chance against Bond, she shattered it with a leap of 5.22 meters.

Team Captain Jen Orbaker '07 placed third in the High Jump with 1.55 meters, and Lauren Steates '07 was not far behind Bond in the triple with a fourth place finish of 10.70 m. On the track, Tri-captain Rachel Bennek '07 placed ninth in the 800 with a time of 2:23.83 seconds, the third Division III finisher. Indoor track rookie Alexandra Americanos '10 made a name for herself in the 200 meter dash, clocking in at 28.27 seconds.

The men's jumping team also proved worthy of DI competition at Cornell, with junior Claudius Zorokong taking second in the Long Jump with 6.53 meters and fourth in the Triple Jump with 13.53 meters. Not far behind was returning Liberty League Triple Jump champion, Tidelco Ductan '09 in fifth place with 13.35 meters.

In the longer distance events, the men represented Hamilton with several high finishes. Alan Guiney '08 and Will Reid '10 placed third and seventh respectively in the mile run with times of 4:25.83 and 4:32.12 respectively. Freshman Peter Kosgei, who had two clutch second place finishes in the League meet, took fourth place in the 800.

Those who achieved NYSCTC qualifying marks traveled to St. Lawrence this morning and will compete over the next two days.

Men's Hockey Ends

by Brandon Leibsohn '10
Sports Editor

Unfortunately for the Men's Ice Hockey Team, the season is now over. The team needed to make up too much ground over the final weekend to have a chance in the postseason tournament. The first game took place on Friday night against nationally ranked Middlebury College.

Hamilton was able to keep the score close, as usual, in the first period when Jake Davis '09 and Jerome Wallace '10 both scored to take an early goal lead. However, Middlebury went on a huge run with six goals over the rest of the game. The Continentals couldn't stop their opponent's power play the whole night as Middlebury scored five of its goals with a man advantage on the ice. Shot opportunities were limited for Hamilton and they only managed to get 14 shots on goal compared to Middlebury's 47 shots on goal.

However, the final game of the year turned out to be quite a treat for the fans. Saturday marked the last time that the four seniors on the team would suit up for Hamilton and they were determined to end with a win. Williams capitalized early in the first period to take a quick goal lead. However, Jake Davis continued his goal onslaught by collecting two more goals. The game was pretty much over after the first few minutes of the final period; Hamilton took a 5-2 advantage when Vaclav Tomicek '10 scored his first goal of the year. The Continentals rode the seniors to victory with a winning score of 6-4.

After such a great start to open the season, the ending must be very disappointing. Getting opening season wins against Norwich and NESCAC opponent Trinity gave a glimpse of how good the team could be. However, things fell apart after a home-away series against Utica College when the Continentals went on a 13 game losing streak. Nothing could go right for the team during this stretch as they lost both close and blowout games to many of their rivals from the NESCAC. A three game win streak near the end of the year brought life back into the team, and they finally showed how good they could be if they play up to their full potential. Goaltender Matt Crowson '09 turned shot after shot away from the net.

Since only four players are graduating, next hockey season looks to be full of great things. With the experience gained this year by the underclassmen, there should be no reason why this team can't make it to the NESCAC tournament and possibly even to the NCAA. Continuing to practice hard, keeping the effort level up and reviewing a few of the fundamentals can be a great way for this team to spend its off-season preparation. Head Coach Phil Grady will make sure that his team is prepared for the tough schedule next year and looks forward to bringing the winning attitude back to the Hill.

Club & Intramural Sports

by Leanne Pasquini '07 **& Rob Dunn** '07
Sports Contributors

Soccer — A League: FC Molach / Captain: Leanne Pasquini
B League: Betty Beaver's Truck Stop and Diner / Captain: Dillon Prime

Highlights from the final games include a surprising victory for FC Molach in the A League soccer final. FC Retired, a team consisting of senior varsity players and their allotted two underclassmen varsity players, was defeated in sudden death overtime by a score of 7-6. FC Molach did not falter until mid-way through the second half, when they experienced their first two-goal deficit. Yet with one and a half minutes left in the second half, Silas McKee scored an amazing goal to send the game into overtime. After 15 minutes of sudden death overtime, Justin Monroe '06 sealed the win for FC Molach. The core team of FC Molach, formerly the Kirktown-South team, has played together since freshman year, and they are proud of their recent designation as champions.

Basketball: B League: Alley Ballers / Captain: Nathan Vandergrift

Volleyball: 1st place: The Frazzles / Captain: Kristen Selden
2nd place: Team 9 / Captain: Sharfi Farhana
3rd place: The Massaro Wannabes / Captain: Allie Massaro

A recent addition to the Intramural program is ***Cross Country Ski*** relay races in the Kirkland Glen. Tim Eddy organized these two events, and he hopes to continue with the event every Wednesday as long as the snow sticks around. The winning team of past races included Linnae Chapman '10, Doug Paetzell '09, Tim Noyes '07, and Jen McGowan '08 skiing both classical and freestyle. Future competitions will consist of teams of two rather than four. Start getting your killer duo together! For more information please contact Tim Eddy (teddy).

Women's Rugby will be playing in the following tournaments this season. For information on the team and the practice schedule, contact Robin at rpeck@hamilton.edu. April 7th: Blueballs tournament at Ft. Drum in Watertown. April 14: Greased Weisel tournament in Oswego. April 21st and 22nd: Beast of the East Tournament in Providence.

The ***Hamilton Equestrian Team*** finished in tenth place on Sunday at the Big Red Invitational held at Cornell University's Oxley Equestrian Center in Ithaca NY. Eight riders competed for Hamilton in four different divisions throughout the day. The event was the first intercollegiate outing for Cora Katz-Samuels '10 who finished fifth in her Open Over Fences division (the most competitive jumping division) and (senior Kathryn Hansen who finished fifth in novice flat.) Co-captain Emily Chamberlain '09 had a season best third place in the Intermediate over fences division. The team hopes to improve their ranking this coming Saturday at the Skidmore Invitational in Saratoga Springs, NY. For more information, contact Emily at echamber@hamilton.edu.

This past weekend, the ***Hamilton Men's Rugby Football Club*** played in the Winterfest Sevens Tournament in Buffalo NY. The Exiles played well and stuck to their fast-and-hard style of play, but they lost in Semifinals to Potsdam. Practices will be held indoors three times a week. Contact Jon at jmilgrom or Steve at srowe if you have any questions and want to join the team for the spring season.

Last weekend's race at Labrador Mountain concluded the regular season for the ***Alpine Ski Team***. The men finished fourth in the Giant Slalom and third in the Slalom for the weekend and the women finished third in both events. Greg Fullman was first overall in the GS and second in the Slalom for the men. Rebecca Yaguda placed second in the women's slalom, and Jen Milne placed second in the women's GS and fourth in the women's slalom. This coming weekend both teams have been invited to Waterville Valley, NH for the USCSA Eastern Regional Championships. Email Matt at mprescot for more information.

Beat the Experts

Beat the "Experts" is by no means associated with organized gambling on professional or college athletics.
Each week, we will pick winners in several games, and we will have a special guest pick winners as well.

	Nick "Ridiculous" Rockwell *Spectator* Sports Editor **27-29**	Eileen "Perfect" Starrett *Spectator* Sports Editor **23-33**	Marty Connor *Spectator* Editor-in-Chief **24-32**	Matt Crowson *Spectator* Sci & Tech Editor **25-31**	Brandon Leibsohn *Spectator* Sports Editor **11-10**
NBA					
Philadelphia @ Milwaukee	Milwaukee	Milwaukee	Milwaukee	Philidelphia	Philidelphia
Boston @ Utah	Utah	Utah	Utah	Boston	Utah
Denver @ Dallas	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas	Denver	Dallas
Toronto @ Charlotte	Toronto	Toronto	Toronto	Toronto	Charlotte
Seattle @ San Antonio	San Antonio	San Antonio	Seattle	San Antonio	San Antonio
Golden State @ LA Clippers	Golden State	Golden State	LA Clippers	Golden State	LA Clippers
NHL					
Washington @ New Jersey	New Jersey	New Jersey	New Jersey	Washington	New Jersey
Columbus @ NY Rangers	Columbus	Columbus	NY Rangers	Columbus	NY Rangers
Toronto @ Philadelphia	Toronto	Toronto	Toronto	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Boston @ Florida	Boston	Boston	Florida	Boston	Boston
Carolina @ Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Carolina
Buffalo @ Ottawa	Ottawa	Ottawa	Buffalo	Ottawa	Buffalo

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H SPECTATOR SPORTS

February 23, 2007

Men's Basketball Clinches League Title; Hosts Tourney

#1 Hamilton v. #4 Union, 8 p.m. Friday; #2 St. Lawrence v. #3 Rensselaer 6 p.m. Friday

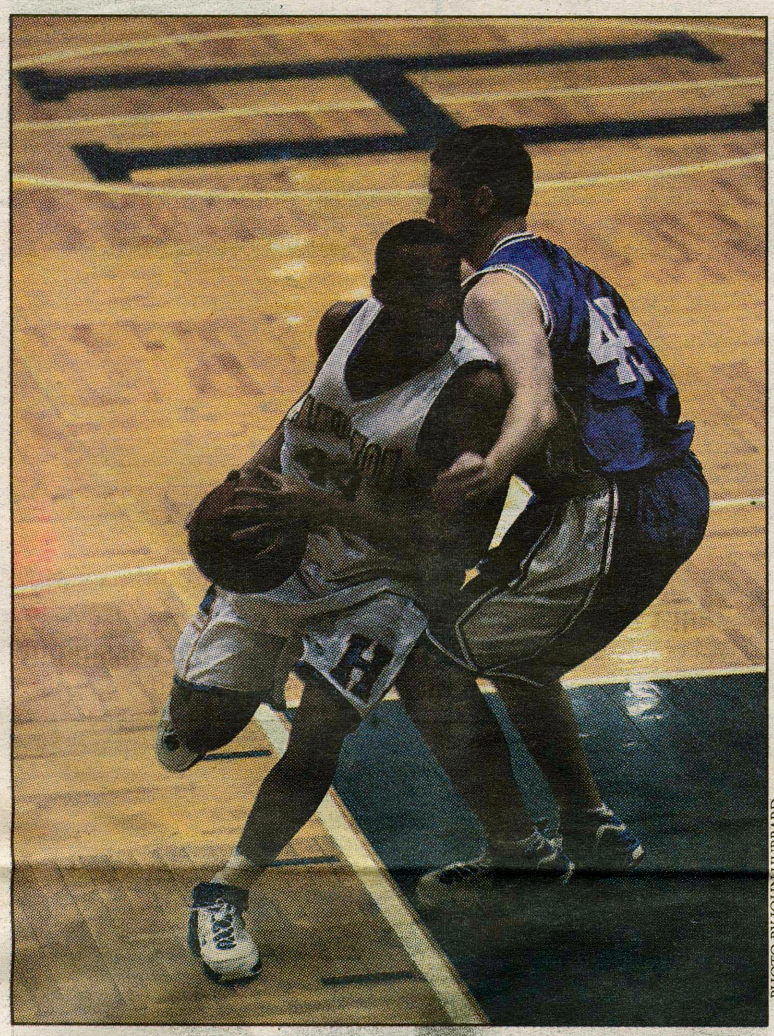

PHOTO BY JOHN HUBBARD

Senior Captain Tkasani Ngobeni dropped 22 points and dished out 5 assists in the Continentals final regular season victory and was honored as the 2007 Liberty League Player of the Year .

by Lindsay Getman '10
Sports Editor

It just keeps getting better for the Hamilton Men's Basketball Team. With the League title under their belt, they finished out the regular season with two wins, clinched the top berth and opportunity to host the Liberty League Championship this weekend, and had three players awarded top honors for the season.

Hamilton faced Vassar last Friday, February 16 in the field house. With only 38.7 percent shooting from the floor, Vassar could do little to stop the Continentals. Hamilton shot 47.4 percent from the three-point arc to Vassar's mediocre 16.7. They led 40-29 at the half and never trailed. Three players were in double figures for scoring.

Zarrette Rogers '07 had 15 points, Dave Alston '10 had 17 and Tkasani Ngobeni '07 posted his third double-double of the season with 16 points and 11 rebounds. Kyle Dumas '09 had four steals, and Joe Manns '10 finished with two blocks and two steals.

With an 85-70 victory, the Continentals clinched the #1 seed in the Liberty League, and the right to host the Championship Tournament this weekend.

The team faced off the next afternoon against Rensselaer for their last home game of the regular season. Even with a win, it was highly unlikely that Rensselaer would make the tournament. Despite this, the Red Hawks fought hard to stay in the game during the first half. Nick Jones '07 fell just one rebound short of a double-double with 11 points, while Alston posted double figures for the third game in a row with ten points. Rogers had 13, and to no one's surprise, Ngobeni came up huge with 22 points.

The Continentals led by only six at the half. However, when they improved their three-point shooting percentage by twenty percent in the second half, they were able to build a substantial lead on Rensselaer. Hamilton claimed a final victory in regular season, 86-64.

With a final Liberty League record of 11-3, Hamilton is atop the standings. Four teams will play tonight in the semifinals of the Liberty League Championship Tournament in the Field House. Number three Vassar (18-6 Liberty League, 15-9 overall) will tip-off against number two St. Lawrence (10-4 Liberty League, 19-5 overall) at 6 p.m. At 8 p.m., number four Union (8-6 Liberty League, 11-13 overall) will face number one Hamilton (11-3 Liberty League, 18-6 overall).

In addition to all the excitement about the tournament, the team can also take pride in the fact that three Hamilton players were honored this week for season-performances by the League. Both Jones and Ngobeni were named to First Team All-League.

Ngobeni also received the enormous honor of Player of the Year. He had previously been named co-Rookie of the year in 2004, second team all-league member for the past three seasons and five-time forward of the week in the '06-'07 season. This season he was second in the league in scoring, averaging 16.9 points a game, as well as for rebounding, averaging eight per game.

Jay Simpson '10 was named co-Rookie of the Year by the Liberty League. He was the only Hamilton player to start all 24 games this season. He leads the team in both assists (46) and minutes played (644).

This Friday's game is sure to be an exciting one. There will be a special student section set up. Thundersticks and copies of the Hamilton Fight Song will be distributed courtesy of the Social Traditions Committee and Student Assembly. In addition, an award will be given to the most "Buff and Blue" student. Make sure to come out and cheer loudly as Hamilton takes on Union!

PHOTO BY JOHN HUBBARD

David Alston '10 and Zarrette Rogers '07 smother the competition.

This weekend in Hamilton Athletics:

Friday 2/23:
Squash (M) v. Stanford
Indoor Track (M) NYSCTC Championship @ St. Lawrence
Indoor Track (W) NYSCTC Championship @ St. Lawrence
Basketball (W) v. Union
Basketball (M) v. Union
Swimming and Diving (M) NESCAC Trials @ Bowdoin
Swimming and Diving (M) NESCAC Championships @ Bowdoin

Saturday 2/24:
Indoor Track (M) NYSCTC Championship @ St. Lawrence
Indoor Track (W) NYSCTC Championship @ St. Lawrence
Hockey (W) v. Colby

Go Blue!